

Mr Sadat returns home with no concessions from Israel

President Sadat flew home from Israel yesterday to a hero's welcome in Cairo with cheering crowds thronging the streets. To the end of his two days' visit he had continued to express friendship towards the Israeli people and their leaders; but in public at least he had been offered no substantial concession in return for his brave initiative. The Israeli Government is

now expected to come under heavy pressure from Washington to reciprocate with an open-handed gesture. With the exceptions of Sudan, Morocco and Oman, the Arab world continued its bitter criticism of Mr Sadat's visit. But high Egyptian officials feel that Arab antipathy has been less fierce than after the 1975 Sinai agreement.

Determination that war will not be used to solve problems

From Edward Mortimer, Jerusalem, Nov 21

President Sadat left Israel yesterday with the words "Thanks for everything". In fact, as far as could be ascertained, he had obtained no substantial concession from the Israeli Government. Disagreement both on the issue of Israel's borders and on the acceptability of a Palestinian state was freely admitted by both sides to be unresolved. But Mr Sadat refused to show the slightest hint of resentment or disappointment about this, or to evade from his declared objective of breaking down the "psychological barriers" which in his view constitute 70 per cent of the Arab-Israeli problem. In a series of meetings with the different groups in the Knesset, and in a joint press conference with Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and in departure ceremonies at Ben Gurion airport this afternoon, he continued to make gestures of friendship and good will towards the Israeli people and their leaders which a week ago would have seemed scarcely imaginable.

In all the meetings, Mr Sadat emphasised two points: his willingness to ensure the full security of Israel, whatever the price, and his determination that henceforth there should be "no solving problems through war". The October War should be the last.

At the press conference he said repeatedly how touched he had been by the welcome of the Israeli people, and particularly of the children. He ended by expressing "all best wishes for

my friend Premier Begin and his family, and my deep gratitude to all the Israeli people, whose welcome I shall never forget".

The only formal result of the visit was an agreed statement, read out by Mr Begin. It consisted of a single, lengthy sentence: "In response to the sincere and courageous move by President Sadat, and believing in the need to continue a dialogue along the lines proposed by both sides during their exchanges and their presence in the historic meeting in Jerusalem, and in order to enhance the prospects of a trusted consummation of this significant visit, the Government of Israel, expressing the will of the people of Israel, proposes that this hopeful step be further pursued through dialogue between the two parties concerned, thereby paving the way towards successful negotiations leading to the signing of peace treaties in Geneva with all the neighbouring Arab states".

Formally this remains a simple proposal of the Israeli Government (the Egyptian Government's official response is not indicated), and neither leader was willing to be very explicit on what form the next stage of the "dialogue" might take. But it is clear that a Geneva peace conference might be reconvened.

The invitation to Mr Begin to pay a return visit to Cairo, which the Israelis had been hoping for, did not materialise. Mr Begin said diplomatically that he did "understand the reasons why at this stage such an invitation was not issued". Mr Sadat said: "After I was invited here and after I addressed the Knesset and the



Mrs Golda Meir gives President Sadat a present at his meeting with Knesset members in Jerusalem yesterday.

Israeli people through the Knesset, the Prime Minister has the full right to come and address our Parliament there in Cairo. But for certain reasons that we discussed together, we postponed this issue.

Neither leader explained what the "certain reasons" were, but one may surmise that Mr Sadat thinks Arab public opinion has been given enough to digest for the time being, and that a Begin visit would become appropriate only when there is some further substantial progress.

During the press conference Mr Begin was at pains to set the record straight about his

speech in the Knesset yesterday, which in the version given in simultaneous English translation (and printed in the Jerusalem Post this morning) appeared to omit any reference to the Palestinian problem. The official translation now available shows that Mr Begin did in fact "invite genuine spokesmen of the Arabs of the land of Israel to come and hold talks with us about our common future, to ensure human liberties, social justice, peace and mutual respect".

Mr Begin explained today that in his view the word "Palestine" was simply a translation of the Hebrew

"Eretz Yisrael" (the land of Israel). "In this country", he said, "there are two nationalities: Palestinian Jews and Palestinian Arabs. We do not recognise an Arab nationality in our country. I spoke about 'Arabs of Eretz Yisrael' that is Palestinian Arabs. It is a problem, and we put forward proposals for solving it".

Conventional wisdom is that with Tories heavily opposing

Mr Steel is facing party revolt on pact

By Fred Emery, Political Editor

A Liberal revolt is likely against the refusal of Mr Steel, the party leader, to make the way European assembly elections are held an issue of breaking with the Government. Last night Mr Steel repeated in a Granada Television interview that the pact with Labour would continue even if there was no political majority for the proportional representation system Liberals crave.

But a serious party clash is looming. Liberal MPs agree, with the almost certain passage next Saturday of a Liberal council resolution calling for a "special" or emergency session of the Liberal Assembly to consider the future of the pact with Mr Callaghan.

The party council meeting at Derby will vote on a resolution moved by Mr Aitchison, the party's president-elect, calling for a special assembly "if the House of Commons fails to pass the regional list system for direct elections to the European assembly as a result of the failure of a substantial majority of Labour MPs to support it".

In that eventuality senior Liberals concede that the special assembly would be most likely to vote to end the pact, and that Mr Steel could hardly resist. Indeed, it is said that some of the 13 Liberal MPs would then doubtless join their colleagues, Mr Cyril Smith, MP for Rochdale, in calling for the immediate abandonment of the pact.

The Commons votes to decide between the regional list system, as proposed by the Government, and the traditional first-past-the-post system in single-member constituencies, are likely to be in about a fortnight's time.

The European Assembly Elections Bill is to be given its second reading this Thursday, but the Government's business managers have not yet made clear their future plans. It is not thought, however, that they will press for a guillotine motion, limiting debate, until after the election. In committee stage that should come almost immediately.

Conventional wisdom is that with Tories heavily opposing proportional representation, the first-past-the-post system will prevail. In the view of Liberal MPs all would then depend on whether the defeat of the pact could be held at Labour's or the Conservatives' door.

Mr Steel received a deputation of leading Liberals while in Brussels last weekend for the second congress of European Liberal parties. They pressed on him the policy-making party standing committee's resolution that the pact with Mr Callaghan should be ended unless a majority of at least 100 for the pact in the Parliamentary Labour Party.

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Labour wants oil funds used to aid industry and public services

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

Broad agreement that industrial reconstruction and the expansion of public services should be given priority in the allocation of North Sea oil funds emerged at a meeting of the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee yesterday.

The meeting, attended by the Prime Minister, considered that overseas investment and the repayment of foreign debts should get a lower priority. The committee discussed a paper prepared jointly by Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, setting out six options for the use of oil revenues which, it is estimated, will reach £3,500m by the mid-1990s.

The paper estimates that the underlying balance of payments should have improved as a result of the oil programme by about £5,000m in 1980 and by between £7,000m and £8,000m in 1985.

The alternatives, which the Government is expected to present in a Green Paper by the new year, are: overseas investment, repayment of foreign debt, tax reductions, public services and social infrastructure, manufacturing investment and investment in energy.

Yesterday's meeting of the committee, which includes non-ministerial Labour Party ex-

ecutive members, appears to have reached general agreement that the purpose of oil revenue should be, in the words of a statement issued by the TUC afterwards, "to raise living standards, reduce inflation and secure full employment to all parts of the United Kingdom".

The statement added that the benefits of North Sea oil should not be "discussed as representing only a minor benefit or exaggerated as an automatic solution to Britain's economic problems".

The committee appears to have leaned towards the view that has been associated with Mr Benn, that the Government should concentrate on no more than two options, that of increasing public service spending and the creation of fuller employment.

Our Political Editor writes: It was being suggested in Whitehall last night that not everyone who attended the meeting necessarily accepted all the conclusions reported in the statement. There would be much more discussion before the Government issued the Green Paper.

However, those who, like Mr Benn, favour using oil money to set up new public industries if necessary in competition with the private sector, will not have been displeased with the outcome of the meeting.

Snow brings a taste of winter

Heavy falls of snow brought the first real taste of winter to many parts of Britain yesterday. In Scotland, falls of up to 11 inches were reported in the Grampians, and snow showers fell for the first time in south-east England.

Eight main roads in Scotland were blocked or partially blocked for a time, mainly because of vehicles unable to see a path through the snow. Strong winds added to motorists' risks.

Gusts affected all Britain. They buffeted motorists on the M23, M25 and M3 in Surrey, and a 50 mph restriction was imposed on the M27 Portsmouth to Southampton motorway.

At Glasgow airport the temperature fell to minus 6° early yesterday. Driving conditions were hazardous in parts of South Wales in the morning. Drifting snow several feet deep blocked on roads over the Brecon mountains in Wales.

In east Kent there were hailstones as large as golf balls during the morning. High wind stopped flights between England and the Channel Islands for a time. Inter-island air services were suspended.

The National Hunt meeting at Folkestone was abandoned because of high wind and snow.

A baby was born on a Dublin bus in the hour yesterday morning when icy weather prevented the mother from getting to hospital in time. She had been transferred from a car stuck in snow. Later mother and child were doing well in hospital.

Forecasts, page 2

Cyclone toll goes up to 6,000

Delhi, Nov 21.—The Indian Government today allocated 50m rupees (nearly £3.3m) in initial relief aid to the southern state of Andhra Pradesh where the deaths from the cyclone on Saturday morning reported to be more than 6,000 people.

Another 50m rupees were set aside for the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu which was struck by a cyclone eight days earlier, with the loss of 400 lives.

On Saturday entire villages were swept away by tidal waves in the region of the Krishna and Godavari river deltas. First reports put the number of homeless in Andhra Pradesh at 100,000.

After flying over the area today, Mr Veengar Rao, the Chief Minister, ordered the mobilization of troops and rescue workers. The 50 mph winds had ripped down telephone lines, leaving many areas cut off.

The worst affected big town was Guntoor, about 150 miles south-east of Hyderabad, the state capital. Initial reports said at least 528 died there. Immense damage was done to crops in five coastal districts.

In Parliament, Mr Bhanu Pratap Singh, Minister of State for Agriculture, said most of the deaths reported were due to houses collapsing. The Government had reports of extensive damage to rice, sugar cane, tobacco and other crops.

Another cyclone is reported to be forming in the Arabian Sea off India's west coast. It was reported to be 125 miles southwest of Mangalore yesterday.—Agence France-Presse and Reuters.

Cairo gives President a hero's welcome home

From Our Correspondent, Cairo, Nov 21

President Sadat of Egypt was today accorded a hero's welcome by his countrymen, who packed his world-shaking visit to Israel.

Thousands from all over Egypt began to converge on Cairo from the early hours and packed the 12-mile route from Cairo airport to President Sadat's home in Giza. The airport and its small adjoining square were packed with bumper-carrying crowds who surged forward challenging police security to greet the "hero of peace".

As the President appeared, a thunderous roar greeted him while he waved and smiled. The crowds, three and four deep,

lined the route through which the President drove in an open car waving to acknowledge applause and cheers. Colourful arches, bearing Mr Sadat's picture, were erected along the route. There were flags and huge banners everywhere.

Balconies and roofs were filled with people, including women who shrieked cries of joy. "May Allah bless you," they shouted.

Millions watched his arrival on television or heard it on the radio. One official remarked: "We have two heroes today. Idu-Ahna (the Muslim feast of sacrifice) and the peace mission of the President".

Cairo newspapers devoted entire pages to the President's speech to the Knesset, giving

prominence to his argument that there would not be peace without Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Leading articles denounced hostile Arab and Palestinian reaction. The semi-official Al-Akhar said: "The President's address has emphasized his unshakable commitment to complete Israeli withdrawal and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights." It added: "Sadat has insisted high the Arab cause and we will tell the outsiders the caravan will continue its path... the struggle will not cease."

The mass-circulation Al-Akhar commented: "Egypt has brought the Arab cause

right inside Israel... What the rejectionists say now after they have heard the President's speech to the Knesset? The speech was a practical reply to allegations of the rejectionist front (that Egypt was seeking a separate peace agreement with Israel)."

The first greeting the President received as he stepped from his aircraft came from two little girls who presented him with a bouquet. As he walked to his car, hundreds of doves were released as a symbol of peace.

President Sadat will address a joint meeting of the People's Assembly (Parliament) and the central committee of his party on Saturday, the Middle East News Agency announced.

New dates for visit to Britain

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, will make his postponed official visit to Britain from Friday next week to the following Monday.

The visit, planned for last weekend, was delayed because of President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, will have talks with Mr Begin at Chequers on the Sunday. The Jewish leader will fly home the following day.

Bitter Iraq attack and Washington reaction, page 8

Help for elderly: Kent County Council is experimenting with a scheme to keep old people out of residential homes

Can death: Mr David Moores, of the football pools firm, remembers nothing of the car accident in which his wife was killed, an inquest was told.

Trading stamps: From today customers may use Green Shield stamps in part payment for selected groceries in about a thousand stores.

Pretoria: Doctor overruled on the death journey taken by Steve Biko.

Paris: A novel about New York wins the Goncourt prize.

Lebanon: A six-page Special Report on the most fragile country in the Arab world.

Leader page 19
Letters: On criminal legal aid, from Mr David McNally, QC; and on setting pay differentials, from Mr John Porter, and others.

Leading articles: Steel—No 1 crisis industry; Greek elections; Mr Vance in Latin America.

Features, pages 18 and 20
Ken Toon, Ted McKay, Joe McKie on why the British press in Syria was so hostile to Mr Hafez Assad.

Paul Ovey on London art exhibitions; Michael Church on television programmes about violent children; William Mann on Delius's opera The Great Feast; concert notices by Max Harrison and Thomas Walker.

Obituary, page 21
Professor E. M. Wilson; Mr S. L. Higgs; Paul Schofield.

Sport, pages 11-12
Rugby Union: Peter West looks at the selectors' choices for new inter-regional matches; Football: Malcolm MacDonald fined £100; Racing: Trainer fined £300 and suspended for 28 days; Cricket: Packer series may come to England.

Business News, pages 28-34
Stock markets: Equities fell back and the FT index closed 5.2 down to 475.3.

Financial Editor: BOE prepares to build its Airoc stake; "Monetary forces" an aid to investment; Cape Allman, a conglomerate.

Business features: The Middle East's big investment in new harbours: is described by Hilary Gomer.

Business Diary: Honeywell UK to have its first British managing director.

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Britain 'treacherous and gutless' over Rhodesia

Salisbury, Nov 21.—A leading African nationalist today accused the British Government of being "treacherous... gutless, spineless, speechless... useless", and said it would be better if it ended its involvement in Rhodesia settlement attempts.

On the eve of his departure for talks in London with Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, Mr James Chikereza, first vice-president of Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC), bitterly attacked Britain's behaviour in the Rhodesian dispute.

"I've always believed the British at best were decent on matters of decolonization, but I never expected them to be treacherous," Mr Chikereza said in an interview.

"I have no truck with the British Government for this reason. The British Government is gutless... ruthless. They have no meaningful role to play in this exercise at all because they have no power to enforce anything they want on this country. Therefore as far as I am concerned it would be better if they left the scene."

"Knowing that they are gutless, they are spineless, they are speechless, it's high time they left the scene to the world that they are useless."

He would not give details of British actions that have led to the UANC view, but said he would hold a news conference in London after he had met Dr Owen on Wednesday morning to "spell out their treachery".

Mr Chikereza indicated, however, that the UANC criticism was at least in part connected with what he called Britain's "treacherous" support for Mr Joshua Nkomo, co-leader with Mr Robert Mugabe of the militant Patriotic Front nationalist alliance.

The outburst came two days after Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, declared that the Anglo-American initiative had failed and that he was pressing ahead with his own plan for an internal settlement.

Mr Chikereza said the UANC, which claims the support of 90 per cent of the country's 6,500,000 blacks, was not considering an internal settlement as such. But the UANC would have "no quarrel whatsoever" with the Smith Government provided it planned to transfer power from the white minority to the blacks.

"Mr Smith must go," Mr Chikereza said. "Any settlement which he is seeking in which he wants to hand over to the majority of the people and for him to leave the scene is acceptable to us."—Reuters.

UK signs £115m shipbuilding deal with Poland

A £115m shipbuilding deal with Poland was signed yesterday which will save thousands of jobs. The order under negotiation for 18 months, is for 22 cargo ships and two crane barges, due for delivery in the first quarter of 1980. Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and executives of British Shipbuilders refused to give financial details but government subsidy of about £25m is thought to be involved.

Karamanlis victory

The Greek general election ended with a comfortable win for the New Democracy party of Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, with nearly 42 per cent of the votes. But big gains were made by the socialist Pasok party of Mr Andreas Papandreu, which easily beat Mr George Mavros's Democratic Centre Union into second place.

Bonn rebuffs OECD

German officials told a policy meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris that the Bonn Government would not take extra stimulatory measures to ease unemployment. There was a general feeling that Germany and Japan were unlikely to make sufficient contribution to economic recovery next year, and Japan resisted pressure to go for faster growth.

IMF studies pay levels

An International Monetary Fund team has begun a detailed examination of Treasury forecasts for the economy. Although the Government is still aiming for a 10 per cent increase in earnings this year, many officials believe that 15 per cent is more realistic and the team is likely to see forecasts based on both figures.

Victory for left

Left-wingers in the Civil and Public Services Association, the biggest Civil Service union, defeated by 116,094 votes to 94,793 a right-wing attempt to introduce a secret ballot for elections to key posts.



Breath tests: A scientist demonstrating one of three new devices for analyzing drivers' breath to determine the level of alcohol in the blood, which are to be tried out by the police. Drivers will be invited, but not compelled, to take part in the trials after going through existing procedures. There is no legal provision for the readings to be used in evidence.

Power battle feared

Power workers are expected to claim a 30 per cent pay rise. Their leader, Mr Frank Chapple, forecast "a bloody battle". But Mr Tom Breckell, in his presidential address, warned the union's conference that inflationary pay claims might lead to fascism in Britain.

Jubilee funds lag

Many countries are well short of their targets for the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, which closes on April 30 next. The appeal council, presided over by the Prince of Wales, is to discuss benefiting young people who are not part of organized groups.

FA criticize BBC

The Football Association said that the BBC programme on football violence only "encouraged this social menace". They were shocked that payments were made to hooligans in the film and urged discussion in Parliament.

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0 survive in Andes plane crash

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires, Nov 21

About 30 people were feared to have died today when a battered Argentine BAC 111 aircraft with 79 people on board crashed near the Andean hills north-west of Bariloche shortly after landing.

According to rescue workers, there were about 40 survivors. The aircraft had twice tried to land in bad weather at the resort before contact with the pilot was lost.

Trapped children die in blazing house

Neighbours struggled yesterday to save two children trapped in a blazing house in Ramsey Road, Leyton, east London. Firemen, police officers, and firemen from a picket line fought the fire.

Sarah Mann, aged six, and her brother, Thomas, aged 10, were trapped in a bedroom. It would have taken a miracle, not the fire brigade, to save them, a neighbour said.

Mr Rees Adamson, page 2

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HOME NEWS

Right wing badly beaten in effort to call secret ballot for key jobs in biggest Civil Service union

From Christopher Thomas Southport

A resounding victory by left-wingers in the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), biggest of the Civil Service unions, yesterday ended a right-wing attempt to introduce secret voting for elections to key posts.

The proposal was defeated on a block vote by 116,094 to 94,793 at a rules revision conference at Southport. The 21,301 majority surprised the right, which was never confident of winning but did not expect such a severe defeat. It appeared that many moderates had voted against secret ballots.

The right promptly issued a call for a fresh inquiry concerning the entry of extremists into the Civil Service to update the Radcliffe commission's report, in 1963, which led to the banning of communists and fascists from security sensitive government departments.

Mrs Kate Losinska, a CPSA vice-president and the right wing's contender for the presidency next year, said extremists other than communists were working in sensitive government departments and the Radcliffe report was hopelessly out of date.

The CPSA's right-wing national executive proposed secret balloting for the election

of the president, two vice-presidents and the 26 executive members.

That system normally favours moderates, and the present system of voting generally tends to benefit the left because of its members' diligent attendance at meetings. Constitutionally the right will be unable to mount another attempt to institute secret voting until, at the earliest, the 1979 annual conference.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, CPSA general secretary, said: "Having got this out of our system, the members will want to pursue the main issues concerning the union, such as pay, the future of the Civil Service and the future of the public sector."

The battle to change the rule book began after the left had seized control of the national executive a few years ago. When the new right-dominated executive took over in May it scrapped the previous proposals and drew up its own plans for constitutional changes.

Mrs Losinska, who early last year was involved in High Court action over an article alleging Trotskyist and Marxist activities in the union, said: "What has happened today is the opening of a campaign for electoral reform. I am certain that this conference is unrepresentative of the wishes of the members."

The principle of postal balloting was endorsed in a national consultative referendum last month by 74,640 votes to 22,606.

Mr Peter Colman, communist chairman of the CPSA's broad left group, said he was elated by the vote. The active participation of members in branch meetings was the right and proper manner of conducting union business.

Mr Colman, a clerical officer with the Department of National Savings, at Harrogate, added: "Postal voting as proposed would have brought it all down to the level of filling in a football coupon."

The left-right battle, which dogged the union for years, will be concentrated in the immediate future on elections for the presidency. In the longer term the left intends to pursue its campaign for the election rather than appointment, of full-time officers.

The rules revision conference ends today. A conference begins tomorrow on proposals to replace the association's fighting fund, which has been depleted by two costly strikes, including the prolonged stoppage by air traffic control assistants.

Mr Rees sticks to his guns on fire pay

By Hugh Noyes and Donald Macintyre

Exchanges in the Commons yesterday showed that the Fire Brigades Union and the Government were as far apart as ever. In a statement to MPs, Mr Rees, Home Secretary, said that even if the firemen were prepared to negotiate on their demand for a pay increase of 30 per cent his discussions showed that they were not talking of a guideline. An acceptable offer would "drive a coach and horses through the Government's pay policy."

The only glimmer of hope was Mr Rees's insistence that there was some flexibility in the Government's position, and that negotiations should continue. But he seemed to be flexible only to the extent that the Government's present guidelines on rises allowed.

He came under pressure from his own benches, with Mr Joseph Aislabee (Barnes) telling him that the Government seemed to be trying to run a voluntary income policy without any volunteers.

On the question of equipment in fire stations not being available to the public, Mr Rees said that most of it was too complex to be used by untrained men and that some would be unsafe for them to use.

Members of the executive of the FBU had made clear to him that they wanted a big pay increase immediately. Talks would continue on the long-term issues of a reduction in hours and a pay formula, but there was no hope yet of what the union would be prepared to end the strike.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, will report on the strike to the general council tomorrow, but there are no immediate plans for direct TUC intervention.

Mr Murray discussed the dispute briefly with the Prime Minister after yesterday's session of the TUC-Labor Party liaison committee. He said later that he had been keeping in close touch with Mr Terence Parry, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, but that there had been no request from the FBU for assistance.

Asked if the TUC would in any case intervene, he added: "We have been discussing the matter to see if there is any way of resolving it, but you do not barge in when you are the fifth wheel in the coach."

Mr Parry reacted strongly



An effigy of the Home Secretary displayed by strikers outside Dowgate fire station in the City of London.

'Bloody battle' feared for power men's 30%

Power workers' leaders are working towards a 30 per cent pay claim for 95,000 men in the electricity and gas industry. That figure is emerging after Mr Frank Chapple's warning of a "catastrophic stoppage" next spring unless the Cabinet relaxes its wage guidelines.

Mr Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, said yesterday: "I cannot see how we can achieve their aspirations without an awful bloody battle."

His warning came on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to the electricians' conference. He said Mr Callaghan would have the comfort of knowing that the electricians "will not deliberately do anything to cause his defeat" but added: "That is dependent on his not being inflexible."

But Mr Tom Breakell, in his presidential address to the conference, said inflation was "public enemy number one" and inflationary pay claims must be resisted.

"There are people who want to see changes in the structure of our society," he told the 600 delegates. "Some believe that inflation is a sure way of bringing down a society they want to change."

Vote for EEC: The electricians' union, whose members once spurned the EEC in a ballot, decided yesterday to sponsor candidates standing in direct elections to the European Parliament. This is believed to be the first such political breakthrough in the Labour movement.

On a show of hands, delegates rejected a left-wing move to put pressure on the Government to withdraw from the EEC "before the democratic rights of the British Parliament to control its own affairs are removed by direct elections to a European assembly."

After hearing a warning from Mr Breakell that the United Kingdom would be totally isolated if it withdrew from the EEC, they voted instead to support a composite resolution that voiced doubts about EEC policies but recognized that Britain was now a full member of the EEC.

The resolution complained that food and commodity prices were rapidly catching up with those of Britain's European partners, while wages were not increasing at the same rate. It deplored the "artificially maintained" food prices, and urged government action to end the accumulation of surplus food being sold off at cut rates on the world market, notably to the Russians.

The electricians called for Britain's negotiators to seek more holidays, higher wages and better pensions, to bring Britain into line with the rest of Europe.

We are nation of strikers, Mr Powell says

State policy has turned us into a nation of strikers, according to Mr Enoch Powell, MP. "Nowadays we are all strikers, high or low: doctor, fireman, teacher, taxman," he said at Watford yesterday.

"It used to be 'lunker, tailor', it will soon be 'soldier, sailor', he told a crowd of Watford Manufacturers' Association.

The state provoked strikes, he said, by attempting to use control and limitation of the price of labour as the means to achieve ulterior economic ends which a certain economic theory had suggested could best, or exclusively, be achieved in that way.

Real value of teachers' pay 'down by more than quarter'

By Diana Geddes

Schoolteachers are earning on average less than three quarters of the real value of their salaries three years ago, Mr Andrew Hutchings, general secretary of the Assistant Masters' Association, said yesterday. Senior teachers earn up to 42 per cent less in real terms than in 1974.

Mr Hutchings called for an independent committee of inquiry into teachers' pay, along the lines of the Houghton committee, which reported in 1975. The effects of the recommendations made by that committee had now been largely eroded, he said, particularly those on pay differentials between junior and senior teachers.

The latest issue of the association's journal contains a table of changes in teachers' salaries between April 1974, when the Houghton award came into effect, and April this year. It shows that to

keep pace with inflation, salaries would need to have risen by 71 per cent, whereas in fact increases have ranged from 29 per cent for the most senior teachers to 61 per cent for young teachers on the minimum scale.

A senior teacher who was earning £4,977 in April, 1974, would now need to earn £8,511 to enjoy the same standard of living in fact the present salary was £6,441. However, teachers on the lowest salary level, who were earning £1,677 three years ago and now receive £2,587, would be earning less than £200 more if their salaries had retained their real value.

Mr Hutchings said he wanted an assurance from the management side of the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body for teachers' pay, that teachers would get back to the pattern of salary differentials laid down by the Houghton committee.

Cash restraints 'will keep prisons overcrowded'

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Financial constraints and a rising prison population ensure that serious overcrowding in prisons in England and Wales will continue, a Home Office memorandum to the House of Commons Expenditure Committee said yesterday.

Spending on new prison places is expected to fall from £17.5m in 1977-78 to £9.2m in 1980-81 and the number of places completed from 1,511 to only 164. The daily average prison population for England and Wales is expected to rise from 41,970 to 43,170 over the same period.

At a meeting of the education, arts and Home Office subcommittee of the expenditure committee yesterday officials were asked about the conditions of the prisons as a result of the squeeze.

Mr K. J. Neale, Assistant Under-Secretary of State in the Prison Department, said the de-

but conditions in many prison cells as a whole were marginal were such that any decline was damaging and unwelcome.

More people would have to spend more time in their cells. There would also be a little less education and work. More money and experts' time were having to be spent on maintaining old buildings. The main effect of the squeeze would be on local prisons.

Officials said the Government was to issue a Green Paper in the new year for discussion of proposals to amalgamate the prison system, to merge centres, hostels, and institutions for young prisoners into one sentence.

Under the proposals being discussed, Mr Neale said, offenders aged between 17 and 21 would be in a separate custody and control over the courts. The prison system would decide where the young person should serve the sentence.

Yorkshire miners threaten action against local deals

By Robert Kershaw

The Yorkshire miners' fight against local incentive bonus deals intensified yesterday when the Yorkshire area council of the National Union of Mineworkers instructed its officials to prevent breaches of a national decision not to countenance such schemes.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, said after a meeting at Barnsley: "We have gone on record opposing any demand of the national executive committee to allow any area to introduce area schemes. We have demanded that the NEC acts in accordance with the annual conference decision and the overwhelming decision in the individual ballot."

The attitude of the Yorkshire area council is likely to be interpreted by both the executive and other areas as an indication that Yorkshire proposes to take action if any area involves itself in local incentive schemes.

Mr Scargill said an alleged attempt by the management to introduce an incentive scheme at South Kirkby colliery was an example of what the Yorkshire area was trying to avoid. One section of men had been in a position to earn incentive payments. After negotiations with the coal board's area directors had given assurances that there would be no incentive schemes.

Inquiry on £12m hospital after royal opening

An inquiry is to be held into alleged shortcomings at Barnsley's new £12m general hospital, which is due to be opened officially by Princess Alexandra on Thursday. Barnsley Area Health Authority has asked Trent Regional Health Authority to hold an inquiry, which will start on Monday.

The investigation will be conducted by Mr Frank Walters, vice-chairman of Trent Regional Health Authority; Professor James Scott, regional medical officer; and Mr Maurice Naylor, regional administrator. It has the support of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Senior surgeons at the hospital have complained of inability to operate because they

Liberal dispute over pact coming to boil

Continued from page 1

The meeting was described by one source as friendly but tense.

The difficulty for both Mr Callaghan and Mr Steel is that the Prime Minister, while formally promoting the regional list system, has granted a free vote on it.

Privately, Liberal MPs hope that the "payroll vote" will lead instructions to vote for PR. But even if that could be secured it would not carry backbenchers. On the Tory side it is reckoned that no more than 30 would support PR on principle.

Those Liberals challenging Mr Steel are expected to be sincere advocates of PR, and not simply would-be wreckers of the pact with Labour. However, some of them would also see it as a golden opportunity to force a general election and to break the existing coalition that the two leading parties are determined never to allow true representation.

Mr Steel's view, in his television interview, is largely opposed. "I think we have argued the case, as we have done, for creating political stability, there is no point in trying to create political instability for party political ends."

Call for end to students' security of tenure

By Peter David, of The Times Higher Educational Supplement

The Government is being urged to increase furnished accommodation available for rent by exempting students from the security of tenure provisions of the Rent Act.

Mr St John-Stevens, MP, Opposition spokesman on education, said yesterday that the Act had created a dangerous situation for single people and for students who urgently needed private accommodation for rent.

"Students do not, in my view, need the security of tenure provided by the Rent Act," he said. "They would be much happier with an unsecured or unprotected tenancy than with no tenancy at all."

Mr St John-Stevens, who was addressing a conference on student housing organized by North-East London Polytechnic, called on the Government to introduce a scheme to exempt student lettings from the Act on the basis of approved registers.

He said the Government had proposed a similar scheme, but dropped it after a lukewarm response. He added: "I strongly urge them to reconsider. Private rented furnished accommodation was ideally suited to student needs. The private sector must not be allowed to move out of their reach."

He criticized local authorities for refusing to accept responsibility for student housing and leaving it to the local university or polytechnic. The National Union of Students could also play a more positive role, he said.

"The NUS should follow the example of Scandinavian student unions and make a positive contribution to the solution of the housing shortage by assisting in the setting up of student housing associations."

Teacher who will not use belt wins appeal

Mr Denis Docherty, a Glasgow probationary teacher, has refused to use a belt on his pupils, has won an appeal against losing his licence to teach.

The appeals committee of the General Teaching Council for Scotland, in Edinburgh, decided yesterday by a majority to uphold his appeal.

Mr Docherty, aged 27, a teacher at Lourdes Secondary Academy, had his licence revoked last month after a headmaster's report that he had failed to maintain discipline in his classroom. The teaching council was recommended to withdraw his provisional registration as a teacher.

Mr James Scotland, chairman of the appeals committee, who is also chairman of the council, said the decision to uphold the appeal had been made because of new evidence. It was not seen by the probation committee which revoked Mr Docherty's licence.

Take some friends to a party

Pimm's advertisement featuring bottles and the text: "Pimm's comes either gin-based or now vodka-based. You choose."

PIMM'S PIMM'S

Call for larger intake of police cadets

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

A Commons select committee has called on the Home Office to make a full review of the police cadet scheme and its integration into long-term plans for recruitment.

The ninth report of the Expenditure Committee, published yesterday, gives a warning that economies in cadet recruitment might prove short-sighted because a larger intake would go some way towards reducing the shortage of police officers and would save some of the costs of recruiting campaigns for older applicants.

The committee also points out that there is less wastage among police officers who have been cadets than among those who enter the service at a later stage.

It should examine the possibilities of providing "a steady, continuing flow of high-potential police officer recruits as part of a fully developed manpower plan for the police force."

Ninth Report of the Expenditure Committee, Session 1976-77 (Stationery Office, £1.35).

Dorothy Squires escapes ban

Dorothy Squires, the singer, was fined £50 by magistrates at Chippenham, Wiltshire, yesterday for exceeding 70 mph on the M4 near Epsom for not having a driving licence.

The magistrates did not disqualify her under the totting-up procedure on the grounds that it would cause undue hardship. She had two previous endorsements for speeding.

Painting recovered

Two Italians have been charged with dishonestly handling four paintings valued at £86,000 which were stolen from a house in Bristol in October and recovered in Hampstead, London, during the weekend.

Campaign shows deprived how our institutions work

By Our Social Services Correspondent

A campaign to promote the use of community workers in inner-city areas, on large council estates and in depressed rural areas was announced yesterday at the launching of Community Projects Foundation. The foundation, backed by Home Office grants of £400,000 a year, has developed from the former Young Volunteer Force Foundation, started 10 years ago.

Mr Geoffrey Clarkson, director of the new organization, said yesterday that

Weather forecast and recordings

Weather forecast and recordings section including maps and tables for today's weather, moon phases, and overseas selling prices.

Today

Sun rises: 7.30 am Sun sets: 4.3 pm
Moon rises: 3.48 am Moon sets: 2.46 pm

Full moon: November 25

Lighting up: 4.33 pm to 7.2 am

High water: London Bridge, 11.18 am, 6.5m (21.5ft); 11.54 pm, 7.0m (22.8ft). Avonmouth, 4.45 am, 11.7m (38.3ft); 5.11 pm, 12.2m (40.0ft). Dover, 8.32 am, 6.1m (19.9ft); 9.10 pm, 6.1m (19.9ft). Hull, 3.19 am, 6.5m (21.4ft); 4.0 pm, 6.7m (22.0ft). Liverpool, 8.57 am, 8.4m (27.6ft); 9.13 pm, 8.6m (28.2ft).

A trough of low pressure will move into NW districts.

London, SE, central and SW England, Midlands and Channel Islands: Mainly dry, sunny intervals; wind NW, moderate or fresh; max temp 67°C (43-45°F).

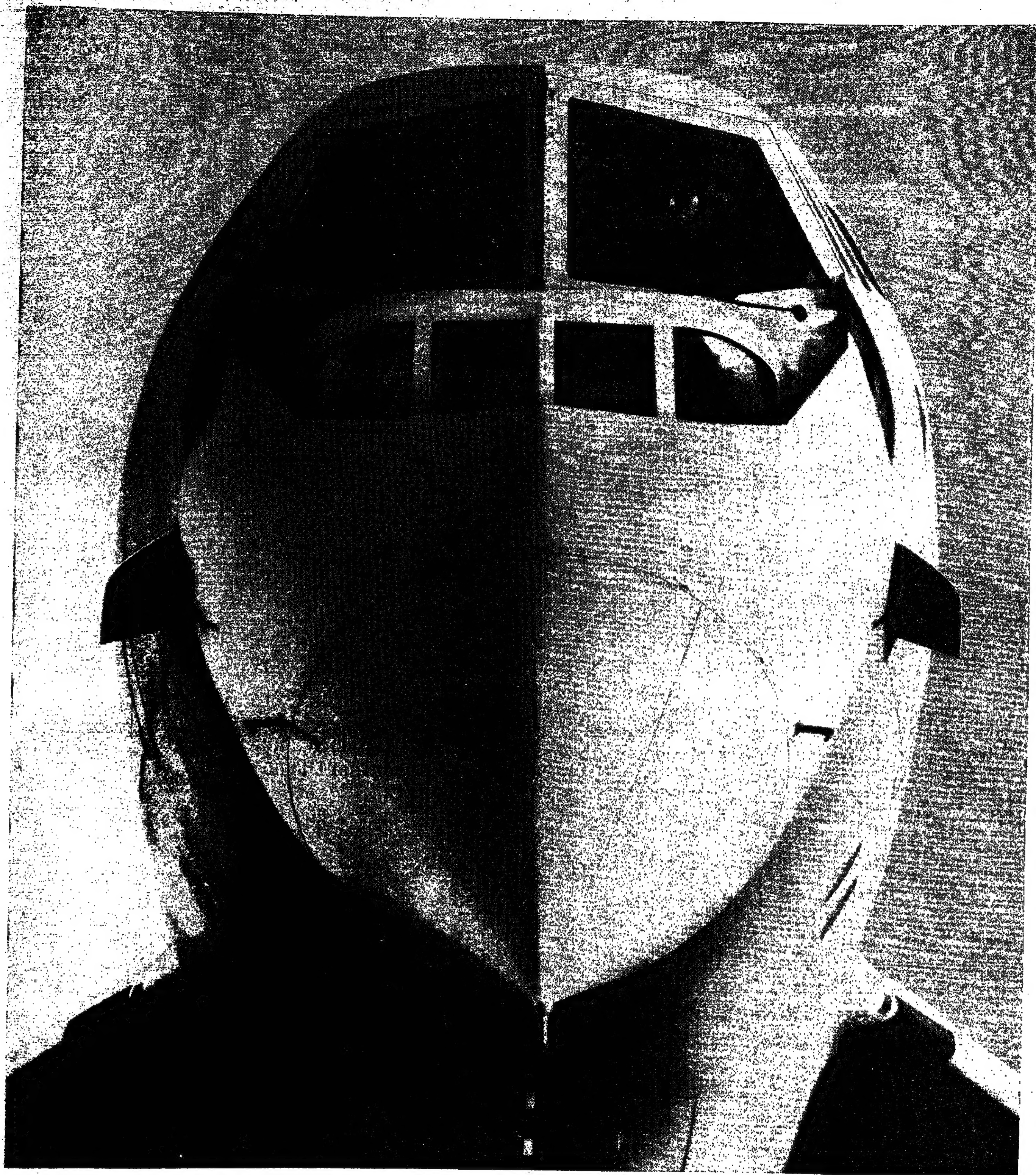
East Angles, E and central N England: Rather cloudy.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; m, snow.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12	W	c
Edinburgh	10	W	c
Glasgow	9	W	c
Belfast	11	W	c
Cardiff	12	W	c
Birmingham	13	W	c
Manchester	12	W	c
Sheffield	11	W	c
Nottingham	12	W	c
Leeds	11	W	c
Bristol	13	W	c
Bath	14	W	c
Exeter	13	W	c
Plymouth	12	W	c
Swansea	12	W	c
Cardiff	12	W	c
Belfast	11	W	c
Glasgow	10	W	c
Edinburgh	10	W	c
London	12	W	c

Overseas selling prices

Commodity	Price
Gold (per ounce)	£375.00
Silver (per ounce)	£12.50
Palladium (per ounce)	£180.00
Platinum (per ounce)	£150.00
Copper (per ton)	£180.00
Aluminium (per ton)	£150.00
Iron (per ton)	£120.00
Steel (per ton)	£110.00
Wool (per ton)	£100.00
Cotton (per ton)	£90.00
Wheat (per ton)	£80.00
Rice (per ton)	£70.00
Soybeans (per ton)	£60.00
Maize (per ton)	£50.00
Barley (per ton)	£40.00
Oats (per ton)	£30.00
Flour (per ton)	£20.00
Sugar (per ton)	£10.00
Tea (per ton)	£5.00
Coffee (per ton)	£4.00
Spices (per ton)	£3.00
Herbs (per ton)	£2.00
Essential oils (per ton)	£1.00



'Morning, New York!

From today, Concorde becomes the first airliner to beat the sun to New York.

Leaving Heathrow at 11.15, you land in New York at 10.00 local time.

Initially flights will depart Tuesdays and Sundays and return Wednesdays and Mondays, increasing to six flights weekly in January.

You cruise supersonically at 1,350 mph—high above most turbulence, enjoying superlative care and attention all the way.

Your flying time is just 3½ hours (half the time of the fastest subsonic airliners), so you arrive feeling fresh and

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Say good morning to New York.

Now, it's just 3½ hours away.

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HOME NEWS

Police to make trials with three new breath-test devices

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The police are to try three new devices for analysing drivers' breath to determine the level of alcohol in the blood. Drivers will be invited, not compelled, to take part in the trials after going through existing procedures. The tests will be for scientific evaluation only and there is no legal provision for readings to be used in evidence.

They will begin on December 1 and continue for next six months in selected police stations in busy urban areas. They follow the recommendations of the Blennerhassett committee in April, 1976, on drinking and driving, that a breath test should replace the blood test as the main means of determining the concentration of alcohol in the blood.

That would make blood or urine samples unnecessary but leave the driver the option of providing blood if the reading was over the prescribed limit. In August, 1976, the Government accepted the committee's report but said that trials and research would be needed to find whether suitable devices were available, and to assess the costs and manpower.

The trials are to be of the Breathalyzer 1000, the Gas Chromatograph Intubator and the CMI Intubator. They have been chosen after labor-

atory tests on commercially available devices at the Home Office's central research establishment at Aldermaston.

About 500 tests will be made with each device. Police officers have been trained to operate the equipment, and the programme will be monitored by Home Office scientists.

Police forces taking part and the designated stations are: the Metropolitan (Fulham and Hammersmith), Sussex (Brighton), South Wales (Cardiff), West Midlands (Smethwick), West Yorkshire Metropolitan (Leeds and Huddersfield), Strathclyde (Glasgow), Greater Manchester (Manchester and Stockport).

The offence of driving with blood alcohol above the prescribed limit was introduced by the Road Safety Act, 1967, and is contained in the Road Traffic Act, 1972. Under existing procedures a roadside breath test (using the Alcotest equipment) provides an indication of whether the proportion of alcohol in a person's blood exceeds the prescribed limit (80 milligrams in 100 millilitres). One or two samples are taken to a police station for further tests.

Laboratory tests of blood and urine samples taken at the police station provide a more accurate result, on which to base a decision to prosecute.

Pharmacologist urges legalizing of cannabis

Professor James Graham, a leading pharmacologist, yesterday proposed the legalizing of the use of cannabis, which he described as far less harmful than tobacco or alcohol.

Professor Graham, a member of the Home Office committee into the misuse of drugs, suggested that cannabis smokers should be able to enjoy the social use of the drug in their own homes. He said: "I am not suggesting it should be universally available, but people should be able to order modest amounts of cannabis from an agency for their own home use."

All available evidence dis-

counted the contention that cannabis was a dangerous drug, he added. "Magistrates are aware of this and the number of custodial sentences for the use of cannabis is very small. The statute book should be tidied up before there is another change of mood."

Cannabis, he continued, was a mild intoxicant, without the aggressive depressant characteristics of alcohol.

"Cannabis misuse is capable of harm like any other drug, but people tend not to smoke it like cigarettes. One or two smokes a day seem to be ample for the average user."

Tribunal told of artificial feeding in jail

By a Staff Reporter

A prison doctor who refused to feed a prisoner on hunger strike 16 months after the Government had stopped the use of force-feeding was within his rights, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

The incident took place at Leeds prison in October, 1975, where Dr M. G. Mansuri had been transferred from Brixton the previous month.

Dr Mansuri, Upper Norwood, London, was suspended from duty in March, 1976, and dismissed from the prison medical service last April. He is alleging unfair dismissal.

Dr Mansuri, formerly senior medical officer at Leeds and now assistant director of prison medical services at the Home Office, told the tribunal in London, that Dr Mansuri had been suspended after complaints about his timekeeping and disobedience to orders.

He said he had no complaint about Mansuri's clinical performance, apart from a tendency to change other doctors' treatments; Dr Mansuri had cited a Home Office circular in refusing to continue artificially feeding a patient on hunger strike.

It deferred to inmates being told there was no prison rule requiring medical officers to feed them against their will, as long as their capacity for rational judgment was considered to be unimpaired.

Dr Mansuri disputed a suggestion from Mr G. S. Nathan, counsel for Dr Mansuri, that force-feeding was involved, however. Although the prisoner was on hunger strike, he said, feeding had been continuing for about six months, and the prison doctor operated to the extent of coming voluntarily for treatment.

He added that it was in order for Dr Mansuri to refuse the request, in accordance with his judgment, on that particular occasion.

The hearing continues today.

Prison officer attacked

A prison officer was attacked at Aylesbury prison, Buckinghamshire on Sunday. He was struck from behind while supervising tea.

Council museums pressing for state aid

By Kenneth Gosling

Arts Reporter

More pressure over the next year for central government contributions to the capital building costs of non-national museums is likely after the weekend announcement that national museums and galleries will receive most of a £3m allocation from the Department of Education and Science for maintenance and improvements.

In spite of several recommendations in reports of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries no such provision has been made.

Local authority museums, of which there are about a thousand, are particularly handicapped in the struggle for funds

Doctor barred after drug allegations loses appeal

A doctor who was barred from practising after allegations that he supplied drugs virtually on demand failed in his appeal to the medical register yesterday.

Dr William Shinkwin, aged 58, of Cardiff, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct last year for prescribing drugs other than for bona-fide treatment.

Mr Paul Honigsmann, for the General Medical Council, said South Wales police regarded the case as the worst example of irresponsible prescribing in their experience. Some of the patients had been schoolchildren, he added.

Dr Shinkwin told the GMC's disciplinary committee yesterday that he had not worked for the past year and had lost his practice. He said there was more or less an epidemic of "people" pressing doctors to give them barbiturates.

Dr Allan Chavell, aged 70, who supplied drugs to addicts at Piccadilly Circus in 1975, was refused an application for the lifting of his suspension from the register. He was suspended for a further 12 months.

MPs try to introduce PR in devolved assemblies

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh

All-party groups of MPs representing Scotland and Wales will table identical amendments to the two devolution Bills tomorrow in an attempt to introduce proportional representation for the first assembly elections.

Mr John Mackintosh, Labour MP for Berwick and East Lothian, a sponsor of the Scottish Bill, said in Edinburgh yesterday that the present first-past-the-post system might produce a bizarre result when the three main parties would each have an equal share of the popular vote. A party that was inches ahead at the election could win control for a fixed four-year period with the support of only a third of the electorate.

The amendment the groups wish to introduce proposes an additional member method com-

Kent County Council's three-year experiment in community care Professional good neighbours help elderly

By Annabel Ferriman

Mrs Victoria Barker, aged 82, is confused, lonely and incontinent. She is one of 20 old people whom Kent County Council is fighting to keep out of residential homes, in a scheme aimed to revolutionize care for the elderly.

Twice a week a Ramsgate housewife is paid travelling expenses to visit Mrs Barker and provide her with some much needed companionship, sort out her bills and run a few errands. Another housewife is paid £1.25 to wash her sheets.

The alternative is an old people's home, which would cost the council £45 to £52 a week and would end Mrs Barker's will to live. "The day I enter a home is the day I die," she says.

Caring for the old in a town such as Ramsgate, where one resident in four is over pensionable age, is expensive. So

it was at Ramsgate that Kent County Council chose to launch its project in community care. The council is using a system of "professional good neighbours" to care for the elderly. It pays them either expenses or small weekly sums to carry out simple but vital tasks, such as cooking meals, walking pets or providing companionship.

Since the scheme began a year ago 20 old people have been chosen for the experiment, but the council hopes eventually to recruit about a hundred. A research team from Kent University will compare the group with a control group in Margate, where no local volunteers are being used and where admission to residential homes will therefore be more frequent.

Dr Roger Morgan, senior research officer in Kent social services department, said the scheme was unlike any other

"professional good neighbour" scheme because of the careful monitoring. The research team would consider the experiment from the point of view of cost and the satisfaction of the old people.

Early indications are of an enormous saving in cost. The average has worked out so far at £5 a week, although in a few cases the combined cost of paying the helper and providing a home help has risen to £25.

Each volunteer helper, after careful scrutiny by council officials, is provided with an individual contract setting out duties and payment. Some are paid only their expenses, others are paid up to the social security earnings limit or enough to compensate them for part-time work forgone.

The most being paid is £12.50 a week to a woman who volunteered to give up a job in a factory to keep her mother

out of residential care. Without the payment she could not have afforded to do so.

The three-year scheme has been made possible by a £180,000 grant from the Sainsbury family charitable trusts and £50,000 from Kent County Council for research staff and incidental expenses. Kent University is giving help free of charge.

Mr Edward Moore, chairman of Kent Social Services Committee, said yesterday that the council had been accused of killing the voluntary spirit, but he thought it was harnessing it. It would have been impossible to go on indefinitely providing extremely costly residential accommodation for an ever increasing number of old people.

The scheme was successful, they would extend it to the whole county and expect other counties to follow suit.



Hospital presentation: Mrs Callaghan (second from left) the Prime Minister's wife, Lady Hamilton and Princess Helena Mountbatten watching a child being treated by Sister Mary Wallis with a Diapulse electromagnetic therapy instrument at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London. The machine, which is used to accelerate healing after surgery, was presented by the children's hospital League of Friends.

Judge calls couple 'vultures'

From Our Correspondent

Preston

A young couple were described as vultures by Judge Sellers at Preston Crown Court, Lancashire, yesterday. They had preyed on their elderly victim in an attempt to take his £23,000 life savings, the court was told. He had died, aged 81, on 21, and Robin Dixon, aged 23, for three years each.

He said that Miss Hodgson, of Laycock Gate, Blackpool, had used feminine guile to exploit Mr Frederick Hodgson, aged 81, for everything she could get out of him, closely helped by Mr Dixon. The couple had denied false imprisonment and demanding money with menaces from Mr Hodgson of Cocker Street, Blackpool.

They were convicted of the two offences—but were cleared last week of conspiring to take more cash from him. They were said to have kept him a virtual prisoner in flats at Albert Road, and Widdell Road, Blackpool, until he handed over £11,000 from his building society books.

Mr Dixon, of Loughborough Road, Belgrave, Leicester, was jailed for a further 12 months when prison sentences suspended earlier were activated. A total of £6,700 in building society accounts in Miss Hodgson's name was ordered to be repaid to Mr Hodgson, a retired post office engineer.

Casement statue gathers dust in Dublin store

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

In spite of the long republican tradition of the Flannery Fall party the political sensibilities of the Dublin Corporation will ensure that an imposing 12ft statue of Sir Roger Casement will remain hidden from view, gathering dust in the dingy Dublin store room of the Office of Public Works.

Roger, a Dublin schoolboy, brought up in co. Antrim and knighted by George V for his investigation of charges brought against the Anglo-Peruvian Amazon Company, Sir Roger was executed in Pestoville prison on August 3, 1916, for acting as a link between leaders of the Easter rebellion and the Germans.

It was not until 1965 that the British authorities, finally released and agreed to allow his remains to be returned to the Irish Republic for reburial in

Pools man could not recall fatal accident

From Our Correspondent

Wigan

Mr David Moores, a member of the Littlewoods football pools family, could remember nothing of the accident in which his Daimler Sovereign car catapulted upside down into a ditch, killing his wife, it was stated at an inquest at Ormskirk, Lancashire, yesterday.

The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure on his wife Kathleen, aged 26, who was Miss England in 1974. She died from drowning after inhaling muddy water as the couple lay trapped after the accident.

P.C. David Cardwell, a vehicle examiner, said that at the scene of the accident, in Moss Lane, Downholland, near Formby, it appeared that the car had taken a straight course on the apex of a right-hand bend, travelling in an arc down the roadside ditch and catapulting upside down after striking the bank side of an entrance into a field.

P.C. Michael Barron said that when he asked Mr Moores, aged 31, of Halsall Road, Halsall, near Ormskirk, how the accident happened, he replied: "It was a complete blank." Asked if he could remember what happened immediately before the accident he replied: "No I can't, except for the sensation of going through the air."

When he asked at Southport Infirmary if he could give a breath test to Mr Moores, the casualty officer said he could not do so because of Mr Moores' injuries.

The owner of the Tree Tops Restaurant at Formby, where the couple had dined, had stated that Mr Moores had not had a lot to drink and was not drunk.

Sergeant Kenneth Hornsby said that as Mr Moores was being released he began to shout "get my wife. She is in there. Is she all right?" The whole passenger side of the car was submerged in the water.

Mr McCann said that it was ironic that Mrs Moores' injuries were not severe and it was inhaling mud that killed her. There was no evidence of any dangerous driving.

He added: "There was a suggestion that the car went on without taking the bend. We do not know the reason. It may have been a car coming in the opposite direction or something on the road, possibly wild animals. There are a host of possibilities."

The new Rover Tradition. The Rover 2300



The car that combines all the benefits of the Rover tradition with exceptional value for money. A new 135 bhp 6-cylinder engine with 4-speed manual gears and the option of 5-speed or automatic. Other options include power steering, Denovo wheels and tyres and tinted windows.

£5351.41

Recommended Price

The Rover 2600



The central car of the new range, including many of the award-winning features of the 3500. Also standard are a self-levelling suspension system, fuel instrumented and colour matched seats and fascia. The standard 5-speed gearbox is linked to a smooth, rugged 136 bhp 6-cylinder engine. Options include automatic transmission, power steering, power operated windows and Denovo wheels and tyres.

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The Rover 3500



The car that set the standard for the new Rover tradition and won all Europe's major awards for safety and excellence. A 155 bhp V8 engine with electronic ignition, power steering, tinted electrically operated windows, push-button radio and stereo cassette player, and a central door locking system are just some of the luxury features fitted as standard.

£6800.04

Recommended Price

All prices quoted include car tax VAT and seat belts and exclude delivery and number plates.

For full details of the new Rovers, visit your nearest Rover showroom.

Rover
From Leyland Cars

Holiday warning to kidney patients

Greater Glasgow Area Health Board yesterday warned the Scottish Kidney Machine Patients' Association had been set up with the intention of collecting funds to pay for a holiday in the Republic of Ireland or home renal dialysis.

The board said it could not accept responsibility for patients going overseas and that patients on such holidays should appreciate that unforeseen hazards to their health might arise while they were away.

Abduction charge

Richard Gribble, aged 18, of John Aird Court, Paddington, London, was remanded in custody until next Monday at Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with abducting 22 air rifle in London Street, Paddington, with intent to commit an indictable offence.

Job-protection lost after petty cash fraud

An employment appeal tribunal in London yesterday ruled that a tax evasion, a £15 a week pay rise paid out of a petty cash fund, was a breach of the employment contract, depriving her of the right to claim compensation for unfair dismissal.

Mr Justice Bristow said that the £15 a week was paid in a petty cash fund, was a breach of the employment contract, depriving her of the right to claim compensation for unfair dismissal.

Miss Lesley Tomlinson, a car hire manager, of Glenwood Avenue, Basset, Southampton, had sought to sue her former employer, Dick Evans, "J" Drive Ltd, of Shirley Road, Southampton, alleging unfair dismissal.

A Southampton industrial tribunal refused to entertain her claim because of the tax fraud.

The tribunal yesterday upheld that decision and dismissed an appeal by Miss Tomlinson against it.

The judge said Miss Tomlinson had accepted the £15 from her former employer, Mr Dick Evans, and the payment continued when the business was taken over by a company. He continued as managing director.

Authority was removed from Mr Evans after irregularities had been found. The new owner, Mr R. F. Baker, took control, and he denied knowing of the tax evasion. Mr Baker and Miss Tomlinson did not get on and she left in circumstances that, she contended, amounted to unfair dismissal.

Mr Justice Bristow said it was clear law that anyone who tried to assert in the courts a right contained in an illegal contract would not succeed.

Buying groceries with trading stamps

By Patricia Tisdall

Green Shield trading stamps, which in June lost Tesco, its biggest single customer, is joining the cut-price grocery contest started by Tesco after its defection. From today, Green Shield stamps may be used as part-payment for selected grocery items in about a thousand stores. Coverage will later be extended to include products sold through garages and other outlets.

Previously the stamps could be redeemed only at Green Shield centres for durable goods. As part of a large-scale organizational change after the loss of Tesco, whose business accounted for about a fifth of the turnover, Green Shield has

closed 34 gift redemption centres, leaving 54.

At the same time, new retail franchises, taken on from International Stores, which is owned by British American Tobacco; Gateway, the Linford subsidiary; and Budgen, part of Booker McCormick's retailing division, mean that new redemption outlets were needed to give geographical coverage.

Besides resolving Green Shield's distribution difficulties, the scheme is likely to attract new franchisees. Consumers who spend a maximum of £2 and collect 20 trading stamps are entitled to reductions of 13p or more off the range of groceries of the retailers' choice. That enables International Stores, for ex-

ample, to advertise PG Tips tea at less than half price and King size cigarettes at more than 30 per cent off the usual retail price.

The overall reduction is no greater than if the stamps are exchanged at a redemption centre. But only a quarter of the number of trading stamps need be collected before an exchange can be made. In addition, the variety of goods and number of outlets is much greater.

There is also flexibility at consumer level: customers collecting stamps with one purchase can redeem them with another in a different store. They can also, if they wish, continue to patronize the redemption centre.

David Frost said to owe £170,000 in tax

David Frost, the television personality, who said in the High Court yesterday to owe the Inland Revenue for more than £170,000. The amount is the Inland Revenue's assessment of tax on his earnings in the United States between 1969 and 1972.

Mr Frost, whose British home is at Egham, Surrey, has been ordered to pay the tax by the Inland Revenue in an appeal by the Inland Revenue against a decision of the tax commissioners for the Kensington division to reduce Mr Frost's assessment for the three years from £174,654 to £27,805.

Mr Conrad Dein, for the Inland Revenue, said Mr Frost set up a company in the Bahamas in 1967 to handle his rapidly expanding earnings from work abroad through the Trust Corporation of Bahamas. He obtained a shell company. In January, 1969, two further companies were set up, one in Curacao, Dutch West Indies, and the other in Nassau, Bahamas.

Earnings through those companies were included in assessments made by the Inland Revenue for United Kingdom Schedule D tax for 1969-70 of £30,000, for 1970-71, £29,256, and for 1971-72, £115,398. On appeal the tax commissioners reduced the assessments to £11,189, nil and £16,616 respectively.

They rejected the Inland Revenue's claim that Mr Frost's partnership with the corporation in the Bahamas did not exist in law.

The hearing continues today.

In the absence of any serious competition, we've created our own.



The new Rover 2600

The new Rover 2300

The new Rover 3500 represents the most significant advance in motoring for years. It won all the 1976 and 1977 major awards for safety and design. A car in a class of its own.

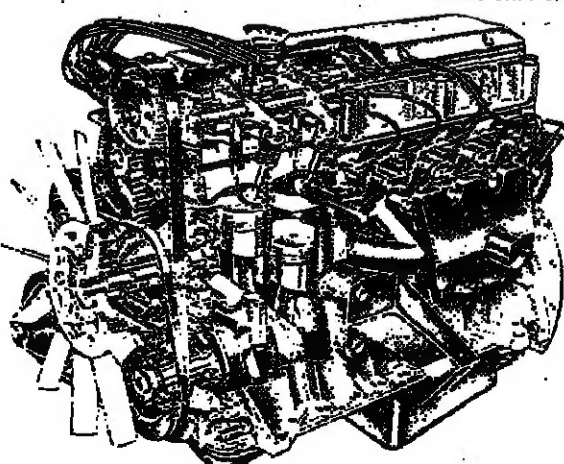
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And now you can enjoy the pleasures and privileges of Rover motoring at an even more reasonable price.

The new cars share the same, aerodynamic, fuel-conscious styling as the 3500. Inside, you'll find the same astounding roominess and high level of appointment.

And Rover's award-winning attention to safety is there, from overall design to smallest detail.



A new source of power.

Both the 2300 and 2600 engines feature overhead camshafts, aluminium alloy cylinder heads using a cross-flow, slant valve configuration, based on an Award winning design. The viscous-coupled cooling fan and the unique Inlet Air Temperature Control systems help to maximise the fuel economy of these quiet and efficient engines.

The new 2300 and 2600 both have completely new 6 cylinder in-line engines, rigorously tested over hundreds of hours and thousands of miles.

These powerful engines are matched with two new gearboxes, a 5-speed manual in the 2600, a 4-speed in the 2300, with an automatic option available on both.

Power delivered with economy: in the right hands, a 2600 manual should match Motor magazine's figures of 0-60 in 9 seconds, a top speed of 117.8 mph and a touring average of 27.8 mpg.*

The Rover 3500 opened a new world of motoring.

The new Rover 2300 and 2600 open that world a lot wider.

See them at your Rover showroom.

Rover
From Leyland Cars. With Supercover.

*Motor magazine. Car tested 2600 manual.

HOME NEWS

Many counties falling short of monetary targets set for the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal

By Penny Symon

Money raised by the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal is not getting to many young people who, the organizers feel, would benefit greatly from it. There is also concern that people have not contributed to the appeal as expected. Most counties have so far fallen short of the targets.

The appeal council meets on Thursday, with the Prince of Wales in the chair. The main topic will be how to make contact with young people who are not part of an organized group but could make excellent use of some of the money raised. The council knows that money has gone to organizations such as youth clubs, schools, ambulance cadets and Scout and Girl Guide troops; but it recognizes that unless ways are devised to get in touch with the "non-organized young", the appeal will not achieve its object of maximum youth involvement.

The appeal was launched by the Prince of Wales last April. It was stated that half the money raised by county appeals, organized by lords lieutenant, would be returned to the county concerned, to be spent on projects with the theme of encouraging service by young people to the community.

The rest goes into a capital fund, the income from which will be used to support similar enterprises in the future. So far, £12,500,000 has been raised, half in cash and the rest pledged in covenants. About £450,000 has been given in 400 grants for projects.

Most of them have gone to youth organizations, to help the elderly and disabled, and there is also an emphasis on outdoor activities and conser-

vation. In Moray £18,500 is to be spent on an outdoor activities centre.

Elsewhere Scouts have devised nature trails, ambulance cadets have bought new equipment, young people are being taught how to ride motor cycles correctly, and one school is cultivating vegetables to help the elderly.

It was felt that local communities should choose projects worthy of support, but their attitudes have varied, depending on prejudices and the degree of their involvement with young people.

A project thought suitable in one county might well be regarded with suspicion in another. Some have decided on a particular theme, but there is criticism over apparent inconsistency.

The appeal remains open until April 30 next. The counties were given a target figure of money to raise, based on size and population. They were allowed to increase or decrease the target, but most chose to keep to the one given.

By the end of September, 21 had either reached or passed their target, and the appeal organizers hope that more will do so by the end of this month. The reasons why some have done better than others vary; more efficient organizers and a higher degree of enthusiasm from industry have been mentioned.

The appeal is having administrative difficulties in counting the money raised for it by the British Legion's house-to-house collection in May, but each county's jubilee account will eventually be credited with the amount collected locally. London's target was £1,500,000, and £500,000 has been raised, an amount

that disappoints the office of Lord Eborac, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London. The sum of £250,000 was given by the City of London, and £100,000 by the Greater London Council.

"We are very disappointed that the boroughs have only contributed £150,000 so far, and we are castigating them in the hope of shaming them," a spokesman said. "The mayors are being told to go out in the new year and visit personally all the smallish businesses in their boroughs which have not contributed and ask for jubilee money."

Among the counties that still have some way to go are the West Midlands, whose target was £350,000, and where £110,000 has been raised so far. Essex (target £170,000, raised £69,489), Salop (£45,000, £19,000), Devon (£250,000, £85,441), Surrey (£120,000, £50,000), Wiltshire (£60,000, £30,000), Bedfordshire (£60,000, £35,000), Leicestershire (£100,000, £42,000) and Lincolnshire (£62,940, £27,689).

Scotland has raised about £600,000 from commerce and industry and £407,853 from the public, including covenants. It is hoped to increase that to £1,200,000. Wales set a target of £340,000 and has so far raised £220,000. Northern Ireland hopes for £100,000 and has got £74,232.

The counties that have passed their targets include West Sussex (target £75,000, raised £110,000), Norfolk (£80,000, £94,000), West Yorkshire (£250,000, £300,000), Isle of Wight (£15,000, £17,125).

Most counties have found it easier to raise money in the villages and smaller towns than in the cities.



Men in safety harness cleaning the Westbury White Horse on a Wiltshire hillside, ready for painting in a fortnight, a good will gesture by Bovis for Silver Jubilee Year.

Court frees former Soho club owner

Frank Saviour, Mifsud, aged 51, who once had gaming and strip clubs in Soho, London, was freed from a five-year jail sentence by the Court of Appeal yesterday. He was cleared of an attempt to suborn a witness.

Lord Justice Lawton, sitting with Mr Justice Gibson, quashed Mr Mifsud's conviction at the Central Criminal Court on August 13 last year of suborning Harold Stocker, a Soho trader, to give false evidence against two of Mr Mifsud's rivals at two Central Criminal Court trials in 1967.

The court allowed Mr Mifsud's appeal on the ground that Judge McKinnon had wrongly allowed the jury to hear inadmissible and highly prejudicial evidence against Mr Mifsud. It set aside his jail sentence and £50,000 fine and ruled that he should recover the costs of his appeal.

Mr Mifsud, who was born in Malta, was reported to have been in custody for two years before his trial. He had been extended from Switzerland to face the perjury charge and a further charge alleging complicity in the murder 20 years ago of Tommy ("Scarface") Smithson, of which he was acquitted in March, 1976.

Plan to end surpluses of EEC farm produce

By Hugh Cleyton

Reforms in EEC farm policy that would stop production of "surpluses" of surplus food are proposed by Professor John Marsh, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Aberdeen University.

The Community fixes uniform prices for most farm produce in all member states, and guarantees payment at those prices for as much suitable produce as farmers care to sell into official stores.

In a paper published yesterday, Professor Marsh says the EEC should abandon uniform prices in member states and keep them for trade between states. He wants it to state a total cash limit on what it is prepared to pay for storage, as well as set a price.

He therefore strikes directly at the fundamental principles of the common agricultural policy. His views gain authority by appearing as the first personal paper from the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading University.

He writes that the policy makes Britain pay more for imported food than would otherwise be necessary. The price of imports represents a real loss of wealth and makes even more difficult the task of securing a satisfactory balance of payments.

He suggests that when the EEC buys food for storage it should pay only part of the price fixed at the start of the year. The rest should be paid at the end and depend on what is left after payment of the first instalment.

Farmers would still be protected against the sharp falls in price characteristic of an unprotected market facing a surplus. Professor Marsh writes, "Less is likely to be offered for intervention and the Community will benefit from lower prices."

He suggests that, following monetary union, the Community should fix farm prices for intra-member trade only. "Where production in the Community chronically tends to exceed the volume agreed by the Council of Ministers, a cut in trading price is likely to be much more acceptable than a cut in prices for all producers. A government which chooses to shield some or all of its producers could do so at its own expense."

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said Professor Marsh's paper was stimulating and deserved study (the Press Association reports). The proposal that governments should near the full cost if they choose to maintain their own domestic prices above the trading price level was interesting, but would present difficulty to some member countries.

Similar negotiations with the Russians have been stalled for many months, and EEC and Soviet trawlers have been excluded from each others' waters since the beginning of October. This rupture came after the Russians had drastically reduced the permitted EEC catch in the Barents Sea.

Britain is particularly anxious to lure the Russians back to the negotiating table. Of the 60,000 tonnes of white fish caught in the Barents Sea by EEC fishermen in recent years, about half was taken by British trawlers. Much of the Barents catch is cod, which is especially valuable to Britain's distant-water fleet since its exclusion from Iceland's fishing grounds.

Mr Frank Judd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told today's meeting that the livelihood of Britain's distant-water fleet was at stake.

British officials said that the EEC might submit a list of between 70 and 80 boats for licensing. Since the Russians were not prepared last month to consider issuing licences for more than three Community vessels, the EEC cannot seriously expect to get access for anything like that number.

In recent years, the Russians have been catching as much as 600,000 tonnes in Community waters, mainly in the British sector of the North Sea. Most of the catch, however, has been of low-value species used for making fishmeal, so loss of access to the North Sea grounds is less of a blow to the Russians than the loss of their catch might suggest.

Although the foreign ministers repeated for the record the desire to conclude long-term fishing agreements with the Poles and East Germans, the EEC would not be able to see the fishermen of both countries permanently excluded from Community waters. EEC fishermen have little interest in the Polish and East German sectors of the Baltic.

WEST EUROPE

EEC tries to break deadlock in fish dispute with Russia

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Nov 21

In an attempt to break the deadlock in negotiations with the Soviet Union on reciprocal fishing rights, EEC foreign ministers today decided to submit a list of fishing vessels to the Russian authorities with a request that they be licensed for operation in the Barents Sea.

At the same time, the foreign ministers agreed to ban East German and Polish trawlers from Community waters from the end of this month. Since the beginning of this year the Poles and East Germans have been allowed a small catch pending the conclusion of a longer-term agreement.

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Suárez party decides its line after election

From William Chislett
Madrid, Nov 21

Spain's ruling Democratic Centre Union has drawn up its ideological programme exactly four months after winning the country's general election in 1977.

The party went to the polls with a hastily drafted outline which included a colour photograph of Senor Suarez, the Prime Minister, and has now had time to study the matter more carefully and present a more coherent plan.

It reads not unlike that of the British Conservative Party—emphasising the importance of the individual, rejection of Marxism, belief in a market economy and in the humanistic values of Christian ethics.

The party, which is a conglomeration of Christian Democrats, Liberals, Social Democrats and converts from the Franco regime, has tried to satisfy all these interests by defining itself as drawing from the principles of the Christian Democratic, Liberal and Social Democratic Parties.

There have been repeated reports of internal differences within the Centre as each of these political families tries to assert itself. The programme has left the issue open by not allying itself with a particular political grouping.

The lengthy programme, which has to be approved at the party's congress in a sign that the Centre is at last starting to organise itself as a party and not just an electoral force: two distinct things.

It won the general election with an absolute majority in the Senate and a working majority in the Congress of Deputies, the two houses of the Cortes (Parliament), more the Cortes (Parliament), more

because of the image of its leader, Senor Suarez, than for any organizational excellence.

Senor Suarez knows that in the next election the party will need to be able to enter the political arena as a serious force. He has just started to visit provincial party headquarters.

Isidorus, the Socialist Prime Minister of Portugal, arrived here today on an official visit during which he will sign a treaty of friendship and co-operation with Spain to replace the archaic Iberian Pact.

Dr Soares was met at Madrid airport by Senor Suarez and then went to the Zarzuela Palace for an audience of King Juan Carlos. The Iberian Pact was signed in 1929 by Franco and Salazar, the Spanish and Portuguese dictators, and dealt with matters of mutual respect and co-operation.

"La Pasionaria" challenged Communists in the constituency of Senora Dolores Ibaruri ("La Pasionaria"), the party's president, has renewed their demands that the veteran revolutionary should hand over her seat in Parliament to a younger person in better health.

Party sources said that the demands were made yesterday by a majority of the 17 delegations attending the meeting of the Communist Party in Oviedo, the capital of the Asturias coal mining region.

Senora Ibaruri, aged 82, returned from exile in Moscow after 15 years to contest the June 15 general election in her old Asturian constituency. She won a seat in the Congress of Deputies, but has been ailing and recently had a pacemaker implanted to control her heart-beat.—Reuter.

Uncertainty over plans for airports

By John Young

Few government documents will be received with more critical attention from local authorities than the long awaited White Paper on airport expansion, which is expected later this month.

Council attitudes to expansion vary greatly. At one extreme are those with municipal airports which they are anxious to promote. At the other are those like Essex County Council, which has consistently opposed the development of Stansted as London's third airport.

But nearly all would probably agree with Essex's view that the Government should

set firm targets and limits on future capacity, that local authorities should be more closely involved in airport policy, and that long-term planning should obviate the need for sudden unprepared expansion.

The sort of thing that causes upset and uncertainty is the recent decision to ban charter flights from Heathrow from next April. Local authorities accept that Heathrow is bursting at the seams, but they say that that could have been foreseen years ago. Plans for a fourth and a fifth terminal could have been made long before they were needed.

As it is, charter operators have been advised to use

Garwick, Stansted and Luton, which will mean an extra 750,000 passengers a year to be spread among those three.

Garwick is probably equipped to handle its share of the increase, but Stansted has remained in limbo since two of its principal users went into liquidation three years ago. In the year ended last April it handled fewer than 300,000 passengers.

Since the decision to abandon the Stansted project, there have been fears that the Government intends to develop Stansted by depress and with- out spending time on further royal commissions, or public inquiries.

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Welsh farmers' wives unite in a holiday venture

Jobs found for part-time handymen and a sheepdog handler will not make Mr Booth's fight against unemployment, although he would doubtless applaud the enterprise behind the although he would doubtless applaud the enterprise behind the venture.

More than fifty farmers' wives in Mid-Wales who take in guests have formed themselves into a kind of cooperative with the aim of making bookings easier and providing holidaymakers with a taste of traditional food and culture.

Behind the *hwyf* and hot cakes lies a belief that they are engaged in a battle against rural depopulation. Every year young people are lured to the big cities, never to return.

Even when organisations such as the Development Board for Rural Wales succeeded in attracting industry to the area the men who learn to turn lathes are usually lost for ever to the farms.

The housewives hope that by attracting a steady stream of visitors throughout the year they can make their farms profitable, with catering work for their daughters and craft work for sons who would otherwise be unemployed.

The venture has been coordinated by a marketing agency, Mid Wales Farm Houses, which seeks to place visitors from all over the world.

According to one of the founders, Mrs Geraldine Barnes, a farmer's wife, one of the difficulties is promoting Mid Wales as a distinctive region with its own identifiable topography.

Mid Wales is an area with more sheep than people, which begins in the south, where the great industrial valleys end,

Regional report

Tim Jones
Llanbister, Powys

and ends in the north, where the volcanic rocks break surface to form Snowdonia. It is a wedding and trekking country, with heather-covered moorland and undulating hills.

All the houses in the co-operative are working farms, mostly hill farms rearing cattle and sheep. For guests the co-operative has graded them according to comfort, amenities and accommodation.

Mrs Barnes and her colleagues complain that not enough is done to help or finance regional tourism in Wales, a contention that would be hotly disputed by the Wales Tourist Board. "Wales is sold as a complete entity, whereas in fact it has regions as distinctive as any to be found in Continental countries," she said.

Visitors to the selected farmhouses can try a country dance, where cider and gingerbread are served, or watch a champion shepherd demonstrating the art of sheepdog handling.

Mid Wales farmhouses even have a skin-diving instructor and a sailing instructor on their payroll.

The venture has so far provided full-time or part-time jobs for 16 people in addition to the farmers' wives, daughters and sons who make sheepdogs' crooks and polish ram's horns for sale.

Missile systems treaty said to be working well

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Nov 21

The 1972 Soviet-American treaty on limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems is operating effectively, according to a communiqué issued after a two-week review here in the two countries' standing consultative committee said that during the five years the treaty has served its security interests of both states, decreased the risk of an outbreak of nuclear war and aided progress in further limiting offensive arms.

The treaty prohibits deployment of ABM systems except for two areas in each country—one for defending the national capital and the other for protection of batteries of intercontinental ballistic missiles for a retaliatory strike. No more than 100 ABM interceptors may be deployed to each area.

The communiqué said that the treaty, being verified by satellites, requires no amendment at this stage.

W Germans on trial for spying in East Berlin

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, Nov 21

Two West Germans and a West Berliner went on trial on espionage charges in East Berlin today.

According to the East German news agency ADN, Horst Jahn, and Christian Kalix, both of West Germany, and Wolfgang Reide of West Berlin, were accused of military espionage activities for the West German intelligence.

The agency alleged that the men had deliberately and continuously violated international treaties and agreements. It gave no further details. Bernd Bachmann, the young Bundeswehr ace, who deserted to East Germany last weekend in an Army helicopter, has asked for political asylum, ADN reported today.

Sheep rescued

Sion, Switzerland, Nov 21.—Sheep rescuers using special slings lifted to safety 80 sheep trapped by snow storms on high pasture in the Valais Alps.

Romanian dissident arrives in France on tourist visa

From Our Own Correspondent,
Paris, Nov 21

Mr Paul Goma, the Romanian dissident author and initiator of the letter from Romanian intellectuals to the Belgrave conference, for which he was sentenced last spring to a prison term, arrived in Paris at the weekend with his wife, Anna, and son, Philip.

He was allowed to leave Romania for a year on tourist visa. In response to an invitation of the international PEN club, of which he became a member last April. On arrival, he refused to answer reporters' questions, but said he would hold a press conference later to explain why he had come to France.

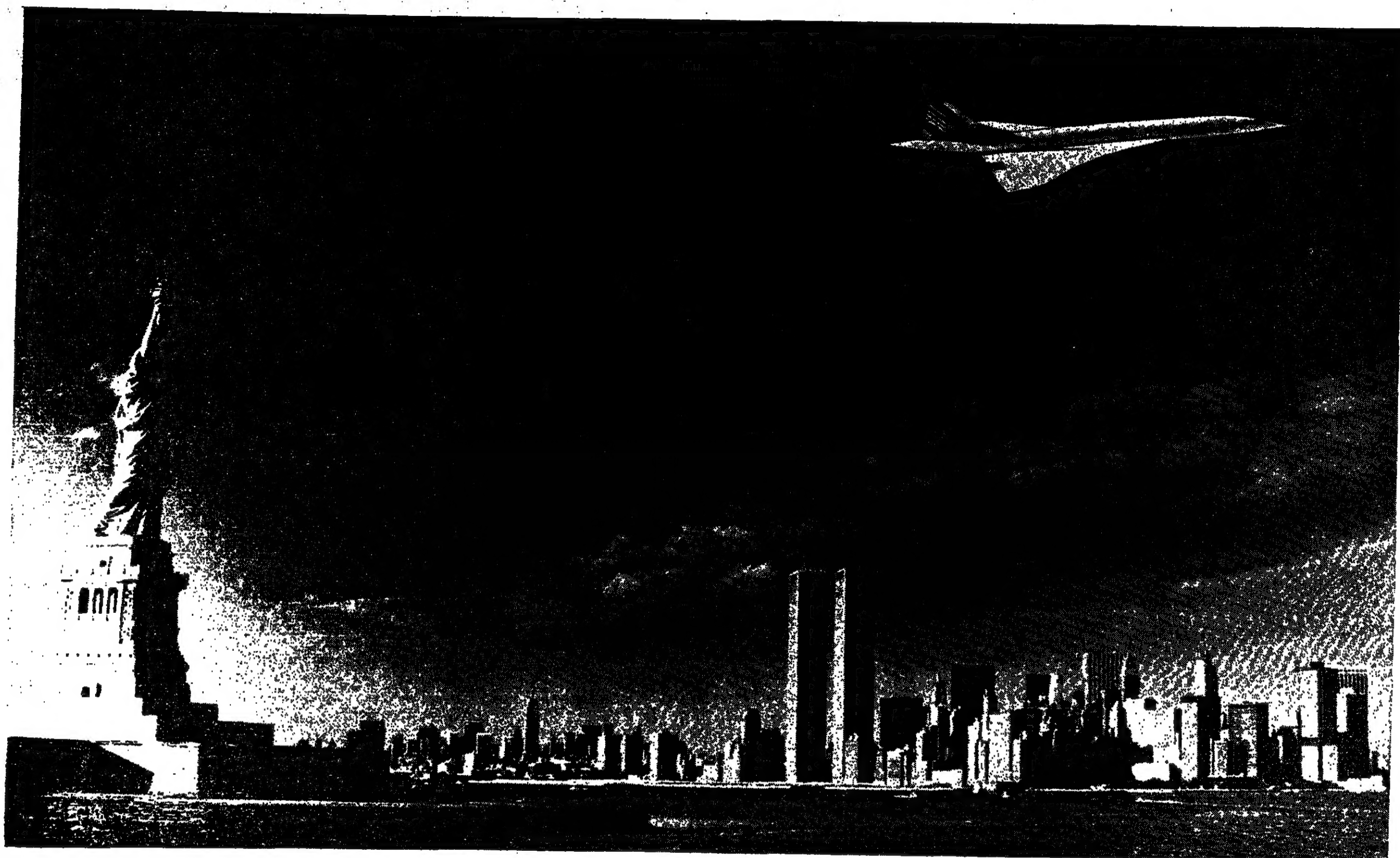
Born in 1935, Mr Goma was

first arrested in 1956 for the public reading of his work *Douleurs* condemning the Soviet invasion of Hungary. He was set free in 1958 but placed under house arrest for five years.

In 1968, after the condemnation by Mr Ceausescu, the Romanian party leader, of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, he joined the Romanian Communist Party. But his novels were regularly banned in his own country, although they appeared regularly in France. He was also excluded from the Romanian Writers' Union.

After his message to the Belgrave conference about infringements to human rights in Romania, he was sentenced to jail for two and a half months, but freed in May.

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OVERSEAS

Mrs Gandhi denounces inquiry into excesses during emergency rule

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Nov 21

Mrs Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, today disapproved thousands of people who gathered to hear her give an account before an official commission of inquiry of her conduct during the state of emergency she proclaimed while in office.

Instead of appearing personally as requested, she sent through a lawyer a 17-page statement which accused the commission of indulging in "character assassination", being politically motivated, and defying both the rules laid down for such a commission and the Constitution.

Her reputation, she said, had been "irreparably damaged" by the procedures already adopted, under article 21 of the Constitution her reputation was a part of her personal liberty.

Mrs Gandhi also said that the commission, under Mr Justice Shah, which was appointed in March by the Government to look into alleged excesses during the 20-month long emergency, had created a precedent for "politically inspired inquisitorial proceedings".

She thought it would be impossible for democratically elected governments to function effectively in future if they had to live under the fear of such investigations into their policies and decisions by a subsequent government.

Her statement, which was read out, was a blend of close legal reasoning and a renewed political defence of her administration and attack on the present Government.

She rebuked those among her former ministers who had given evidence before the one-man commission. Citing English constitutional authorities like Sir Ivor Jennings, Mrs Gandhi defended several controversial appointments made under the exercise of the

Prime Minister's "overall constitutional responsibility".

Mrs Gandhi even claimed that her style of governing during the emergency, which is accepted generally as authoritarian, was "in marked contrast" to that of the Wilson Government as described by Richard Crossman, the former Labour Minister.

Yet to one in Britain, not even Crossman, has suggested that concentration of so much power in the prime minister designed to subvert democracy or to establish a personal dictatorship," she said.

She added a parallel with General de Gaulle arming himself with extra powers under the Fifth Republic's constitution to justify her response to unrest by declaring the emergency in June, 1975.

In her concluding words, Mrs Gandhi said that although she felt no useful purpose would be served by taking part in the present proceedings, she would accept a summons to appear as a witness the commission "decides to hold the inquiry in accordance with the law".

Mrs Gandhi's most telling point, perhaps, was to argue that the present proceedings were intended to be only a preliminary to establish whether there were excesses, with a subsequent stage to establish individual responsibilities, such as a preliminary inquiry should not have been conducted "under the full glare of publicity".

Mr Justice Shah gave an assurance that, when the commission came to the second stage, he would give all concerned full opportunity to explain their conduct, have legal advice, produce evidence in their defence, and cross-examine other witnesses.

First, however, he had to establish whether the emergency was in itself an excess, he said.

Productivity bonuses find support in China

Peking, Nov 21.—A national newspaper today published a report on what it described as a "heated" discussion among Chinese economists during which a proposal for skill and productivity bonuses was approved.

A wage system based on the number of hours and piece-work payments also received the approval of the economists, but with some limitations.

Publication of the article was seen as a call for national debate on payments for workers. Its appearance in the *Guangming Daily*, a paper aimed at intellectuals, was also taken as a sign that the Chinese leaders may be thinking on similar lines as they plan the so-called four modernizations—in agriculture, industry, science and technology and defence.

The state of the economy is a big problem and the country must decide how to increase workers' productivity and how to acknowledge skill.

The first wage increases for at least six years went into effect on October 1 and covered millions of people earning less than 90 yuan (about £28 a month—a high wage in itself as the national average is believed to be less than half this amount).

The newspaper described the recent "theoretical discussion" on extra payments as "heated" and pointed out that no one in China dared to touch this question in recent years. *Reuter*.

Blue riband route opens this morning after a two-year battle

Two Concorde flying together to New York

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

After a legal wrangle lasting nearly two years and with protests from environmentalists continuing, British and French Concorde supersonic airliners will operate their first services with fare-paying passengers into New York today.

British Airways and Air France Concorde will leave Heathrow airport, London, and Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris, respectively, within a quarter of an hour of each other and, in a finely-timed operation, will land with minutes between them after covering some 3,500 miles across the Atlantic in about three hours, 45 minutes.

Air France will be the first to touch down, British Air-

ways conceding the honour as they landed just ahead of Air France when supersonic services were inaugurated to Washington in May last year.

The British Airways Concorde will carry 100 passengers, half of them fare-paying at £431 single (compared with the first-class single fare of £356.50 by subsonic airliners) and the remainder guests of the airline. They are expected to include Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, and Sir George Edwards, former chairman of the British Aircraft Corporation, the Concorde manufacturers.

The airline said yesterday that they have sold some 1,000 seats on the 1,350 mph airliner up to Christmas, about half in each direction. On their supersonic services to Washington and to Bahrain, begun on

January 21, 1976, they have carried 45,000 passengers.

Because of the speed at which it travels and the time difference between Britain and the United States, the British aircraft will arrive in New York today before it has left London if local times are considered.

Take-off from London will be at 9.45 am and arrival in New York at 8.30 am.

Permission for Concorde to start supersonic flights on the "blue riband" Europe-New York routes was not received until October 17 when the United States Supreme Court refused an application by the New York Port Authority to continue its ban on flights.

Our New York Correspondent writes: Opponents of Concorde plan to picket Kennedy airport here when the two aircraft arrive at breakfast time.

A demonstration yesterday, in which people living in the neighbourhood drove their cars slowly round the airport trying to disrupt traffic, was less successful than previous similar undertakings.

Last Friday, in what amounted to an admission that it could not immediately implement fair noise standards which would be Concorde, the New York Port Authority declared its intention of setting new standards in 1985 which would prevent landings by Concorde and by several other jets, including the Boeing 707.

The plan differs significantly from that drawn up by the Government, which would allow all Concorde now flying or under construction a permanent immunity from stricter noise restrictions, though new models would have to be quieter.

Launching of satellite postponed again

From Pearce Wright
Science Editor
Cape Canaveral, Nov 21

Mysterious radio signals caused a last-minute postponement—the fourth—of the launching here of the first European weather satellite last night. Interference threatened to trigger the destruct system built into the Delta launch vehicle to destroy a rocket that goes off course.

The trouble has now been identified as an American naval vessel conducting surface-to-air manoeuvres with an aircraft off the Florida coast. The interference occurred last Wednesday, but National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials would not sanction a launching until the source had been found.

The American space agency is increasingly sensitive because a number of failures of satellite launches recently.

The present satellite is the first space craft built in Europe with a practical application. It is also a new type of vehicle for weather predictions, the first of five planned to form a network round the world. Two will be American designs, one Japanese and one Russian.

Helicopter crashes

Teheran, Nov 21.—Two people were killed when a military helicopter hit a cable and crashed in the Masjed Soleyman mountain range in south-west Iran on Sunday, newspapers reported.

Verdict next month in trial of British nurse

Judgment in the trial of Miss Rita Nightingale, a 24-year-old nurse from Blackburn, Lancashire, on drug charges will be delivered by the Bangkok Criminal Court on December 9.

The court hearing ended today. Miss Nightingale has denied the possession and attempted trafficking of almost 5lb of heroin. It found guilty she could be sentenced to up to 40 years in prison.

She has already spent eight months in Bangkok's women's prison, where she has now been moved into the cell for long-term prisoners.

Mr Fraser launches election campaign

Melbourne, Nov 21.—Mr Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, today launched his Government's campaign for the general elections on December 10 as opinion polls suggested he risked defeat by the Labour Party, led by Mr Gough Whitlam.

Sources in Mr Fraser's Liberal Party conceded privately that it was worried at the prospect of an electoral backlash after the resignation last Thursday of Mr Philip Lynch, the Federal Treasurer. The resignation followed a political storm over the Lynch family's business involvement

in land deals which netted huge profits.

In a televised speech today, Mr Fraser called on the voters to return him to power to ensure "a new era of prosperity and development."

Outside the hall where Mr Fraser spoke more than 100 demonstrators tried to burst through strong police barriers. They blew whistles and yelled anti- Fraser slogans.

Mr Whitlam was defeated overwhelmingly by the Liberal-National Country Party coalition less than two years ago, after being dismissed as Prime Minister by Sir John Kerr, the Governor-General. He is keep-

ing up a relentless attack on Mr Fraser for his handling of the Lynch resignation.

He attacked him for suggesting that the Government was returning to power, Mr Lynch would be reappointed Treasurer.

"So, Mr Fraser himself admits he has procured Mr Lynch's resignation for an election cosmetic job."

Mr Fraser said tonight Mr Lynch upheld the highest traditions of parliamentary government by resigning. "His Government, he continued, had turned round the economy after Labour's three years in power.—*Reuter*.

Japanese to extract uranium from sea

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Nov 21

Deprived of indigenous resources and threatened by a predicted energy crisis during the next two decades, the Japanese are planning to construct a unique plant designed to extract minute quantities of uranium from sea water.

The plan was mooted early this year after successful experiments by Japanese scientists indicated that 3.3 milligrams of uranium can be extracted from one ton of seawater. According to their projections an estimated 4,200 million tons of uranium are suspended in minute quantities in the world's oceans.

Put simply, uranium can be separated from sea water by titanic acid as currents pass through special nets laid along selected areas of the coast. The residue is then refined by flotation and ion exchange to produce uranium oxide.

While the initial experiments have proved successful, scientists in Tokyo admit there are formidable obstacles to be overcome before the procedure is adapted for commercial use.

Under the initial plans of the Ministry for International Trade and Industry, the Government intends to construct the first commercial plant by 1991. It is designed to extract 1,000 tons of uranium a year from the sea.

The cost of uranium extracted from the sea is expected to equal the price of mined uranium when the plant is completed in 10 years. It is expected to provide Japan with 5 per cent of its future requirements.

The major problem is space," Mr Kouzoku Yamamoto of the Atomic Energy Research Division, points out. "A plant capable of extracting

1,000 tons of uranium from the sea every year would have to be equipped with nets stretched along five miles of the coast."

Officials and scientists involved in the project believe that they will evolve a far more efficient method of extracting uranium from the sea when the first pilot plant is established during the next few years.

"It will be a small pilot project, the first in the world, and the plant will be designed to extract 10 kilograms (about 22lb) of uranium from sea water every year. The plans for the first plant are expected to be completed next year," Mr Yamamoto said.

Mr Yamamoto explained that scientists were confronted with the choice of using tides or water from cooling towers round the coast during the experiment.

"Experiments show that in the case of Japan, tides and currents offer the more practical means of forcing water through absorbent nets. Sea water pumped out of cooling plants could be used in the areas where tides are not strong but we have opted for the use of currents," Mr Yamamoto said.

Commissioned by the Government, two commercial firms, the Tokuyama Soda Company and the Mitsubishi Kinzoki (Metal Mining) Company, have so far completed the initial experiments at a cost of \$1m (£550,000).

However, the Okayama College of Science, employing different techniques, extracted 60 milligrams of uranium from 400 tons of sea water in July this year. The experiment indicated that 30 tons of sea water contains one gram of uranium.

Refugees reach land

Darwin, Nov 21.—Six more Indo-Chinese refugee boats with a total of 218 people on board have arrived here. It was the largest single group of refugees to reach Australia in more than two years of voyages from Thailand and Vietnam.

States to unite

Bissau, Nov 21.—The African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands, which rules the two former Portuguese colonies, has decided to move gradually towards uniting the two countries.

Wesker play on Shylock has brief Broadway run

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Nov 21

Arnold Wesker's new play, *The Merchant*, has closed after only four performances on Broadway.

The reworking of *The Merchant of Venice* to present Shylock in a heroic light received generally positive reviews after it opened last Wednesday. Critics said it was too wordy, with little dramatic action.

Wesker's argument is that Shylock was, in fact, a close friend of Antonio, and entered into the pound-of-flesh bond only at Antonio's insistence, because the Venetian law demanded that any loan from a Jew be covered by a binding contract.

The insertion of the fatal "pound of flesh" clause was Shylock's idea to point up the absurdity of the laws and how it did in fact harm Jews. They called it a "nonsense bond" designed as a protest against the confined ghetto conditions in which Jews in Venice were forced to live.

The play was directed by John Dexter, the British director who has handled many of Wesker's plays. It also marked the Broadway debut of Sir John Clements, the British actor, in the supporting role of Antonio.

The play suffered a misfortune a few months ago while being tried out in Philadelphia. Zero Mostel, the Broadway actor who was to have played the lead part, died.

The part was taken over by a relatively unknown understudy, but with negative reviews and without a big name to support it, the play could not avoid the sudden closure which, with Broadway production costs so high, is a fairly frequent fate.

The critic of *oothe* New York Post summed up the general view by calling it "a theatrical and argumentative play with little life force of its own."

The *Daily News* called it "an interesting try, but one necessarily doomed."

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PARLIAMENT, November 21, 1977

Home Secretary explains why troops cannot use complicated fire-fighting equipment

House of Commons

Mr. Martin Ryle, Home Secretary (Leeds, East, Lab.) made a statement on the negotiations which have been taking place in the National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Fire Brigades on the claim submitted by the Fire Brigades Union for a pay increase of about 30 per cent, and on the operational response to the strike by firemen.

He said that last Friday the employers' side of the National Joint Council and the full executive of the Fire Brigades Union came to see him and he had separate talks with these two groups.

The employers had (he continued) maintained their offer to implement immediately a pay increase of 10 per cent. This would have put some £5.50 to £6.00 into the firemen's pay packets immediately, and would have increased the pay of the qualified fireman outside London, from £62.55 a week to £72.29 a week, and in London from £74.07 to £80.57 a week.

Progress was made on the longer term issues. The employers were ready to agree in principle to a reduction of hours from November next year. There were useful discussions on a formula for determining fire service pay in the future.

I understand that the employers would have been prepared to reach agreement on a pay formula if the Fire Brigades Union had been willing to undertake to put it to a further recalled conference, and also to return to normal working conditions.

The Fire Brigades Union rejected this. Members of the executive made it clear to me that what they wanted was a more substantial pay increase immediately.

Talks will continue between the two sides on the longer term issues of a reduction in hours and a pay formula, but there is no present basis on which the union would be prepared to recall the conference and seek an end to the strike.

I have been in touch with the Secretary of the National Joint Council to clarify the situation.

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Bruce Millan) and I are available at any time to see the two sides of the National Joint Council, and to the operational response, the steps which we have been taking with fire authorities and with the Services to provide a fire-fighting force have been under constant review during the past week and we have taken steps, as necessary, to increase our capability. Further Services have been made available and we have been further emergency appliances.

With regard to the use by firemen of breathing apparatus and the equipment ordinarily used by regular firemen, we have looked at all aspects of this question very carefully. The Chief Inspector of Fire Services and the Service authorities have confirmed their original advice that it would be unsafe for inexperienced firemen with only minimal training to use such equipment.

Fire fighting is a skilled and complex operation. It is not simply a matter of putting on a mask and using a breathing apparatus. It is a matter of being fully trained in the fire-fighting techniques made possible by the use of breathing apparatus and the safety procedures to be followed, if men are not to be put at grave risk.

The great majority of firemen now carrying out fire duties are not trained at all in this way. But we have now deployed 132

trained RAF fire fighters who are competent in the use of such equipment. A further 30 are in reserve, and 60 trained men are also being made available by the Royal Navy.

As for other equipment in fire stations, essentially what we are concerned with here is the red appliances, the water tender and pump, hydraulic platform, turntable ladders and pump escapes. The advice given me by the Chief Inspector of Fire Services is that some of these appliances—the hydraulic platform, turntable ladders and pump escapes—could not be used safely by troops without extensive training.

The pumping appliances, water tender and pump, do not present the same safety problems, but they are a good deal more sophisticated than the Green Goddesses which are used by the firemen. There are difficulties, even for trained firemen, in switching from one make and type of pumping appliance to another.

The only equipment in fire stations for which there might conceivably be need and which could be used by troops is foam-making equipment. This is required only for fighting certain types of fire, for example oil fires. In fact foam compound is available from the Royal Air Force and has been made available to the Services, in addition to other foam-making units. All this foam may be used in conjunction with the Green Goddesses.

Finally, I repeat that the Secretary of State for Scotland and I remain ready to see the two sides of the National Joint Council if it appears that we can help in any way to bring the strike to an end, and so enable firemen to have the benefit of the immediate pay offer which has been made to them

and of the longer term improvements which can come to the service.

Mr. William Whitelaw, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and spokesman on home affairs (Pembroke, Devon, C.)—Mr. Ryle has said that the employer is ready to agree in principle to a reduction of hours from November next year. If the principle of a reduction of hours is conceded, would there not be a basis for negotiation leading to a settlement on the timing of any such changes?

We appreciate the problems of certain personnel using complicated equipment but what steps is Mr. Ryle taking to give the troops the necessary training?

Mr. Ryle said that the RAF fire fighting services have now been brought into operation. It is a pity that they were not brought in at the first moment, but there were reasons for this.

Would he look into what equipment was used by the forces in Glasgow and see if it was possible to ensure that whatever equipment could safely be used, including pump and turntable ladders, was made available whenever they can be used for the protection of the troops and for help in fighting fires?

Mr. Ryle—At the earlier stages, I thought there was something in this, but on closer inspection, Mr. Ryle looks at my statement, she will see that they come from an agreement reached relatively quickly. The view of the Government would have to be to reduce the time it takes to get the equipment and put it into use.

Mr. John Pardon (North Cornwall, L.)—Discussions on the future of firemen in the national pay scale are not a matter for collective

bargaining but for fully forming a union and it is a pity that we do not still have the National Baked-on Pudding and Sir James to sort out this kind of dispute.

Those of us representing law enforcement areas do not regard the offer of £72.29 for a fireman outside London as satisfactory.

Mr. Ryle—In the relative pay of low paid, a 10 per cent pay offer, what we are offering is a 10 per cent pay offer, which is not a bad offer compared with what others in the past have received. But also involved, as part of the settlement of the emotions here are discussions in the last eight years on the future of the fire service, its greater use in fire prevention and higher status for firemen. These are important issues which are relevant to a 42-hour week.

There is more to it than that. But I accept that the pay being offered is not the best that could be offered. But I think that the position of the fireman in a different perspective.

Mr. Eric Rafter (Liverpool, Wal., Lab.)—Firemen will feel aggrieved at the fact that some people in private industry, like white collar Ford workers, are not to accept 12 per cent?

If there is to be a settlement, money must be put on the table now. The Government are losing public support on this; the public are backing the firemen. Whether the Government are to get a better table and offer more to get a settlement.

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‘Considerable support’ for abolition of the Lords

Mr. Michael Foot, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the Commons, said he had been left in no doubt that abolition of the House of Lords would enjoy considerable support. He had been asked by Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab.) what representations he had received on the subject.

It is at this time of the parliamentary period (Mr. Skinner continued) that the House of Lords can be at its most dangerous. It is a power to delay at the end of such a period is transformed into one of the ability to block or obstruct. Bill it chooses as the Government are getting towards the end of this period of office.

Will he therefore take full account of the massive majority at the Labour Party conference and take no account of the House of Lords, especially when it is taken into account that he has been speaking more to the House of Lords than to the House of Commons? Mr. Foot (Edinburgh, Lab.)—Mr. Skinner is correct in the facts he has stated. The vote of the Labour Party conference was one of the most significant in my original remarks.

Mr. John Biffen (Oswestry, C.)—Has he received or sought any views from the Liberal Party on the future of the Lords?

Mr. Foot—I have not discussed this matter with the Liberals, but I would imagine some of them at any rate still hold to the old radical view of the House of Lords, which was held over 30 or 40 years ago.

Mr. William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab.)—Will he not be highly desirable if the House of Lords is destroyed? The Scottish Bill, because Mr. Foot could then kill it with a simple majority.

Mr. Foot—I hope there will not be any other irritations from MPs to the Lords to exercise their powers in the way Mr. Biffen (Liverpool, Lab.) said it did in a highly jocular manner.

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Size of industrial tribunal awards ‘being grossly misrepresented’

On the industrial relations front, the industrial tribunal awards are being grossly misrepresented.

Over the past 12 years the House has built up a piece by piece legislation to provide for working people the minimum standards of employment. The main objectives have been to ensure a greater measure of social justice in working life, to secure the right of workers to join a trade union, to provide for working people and to outlaw discrimination in employment.

These rights, to a large extent, had come about through the Employment Protection Act, 1975. This Act was a landmark in the history of industrial relations. It was a landmark because it was the first time that the law had been used to enforce the rights of workers.

These tribunals could only act effectively if they had the support and confidence of employers, trade unions and individual workers.

It was highly significant that the tribunals had been used to enforce the rights of workers. It was a landmark because it was the first time that the law had been used to enforce the rights of workers.

Industrial tribunals had been a feature of the industrial relations system for 12 years. They had been given many additional responsibilities.

As their jurisdiction has widened and the cases that have been brought to them have increased, the tribunals have been given many additional responsibilities.

They had introduced them and stood by them, but it was important that they should all look and learn from the experience of the past six years.

They knew that in the 12 months ending in June 1976 cases were being brought to them at a rate of 12,000 a month. This was a significant increase in the number of cases.

It was fairly expensive for employers to defend cases at tribunals. There were cases where employers, on legal advice, paid out a small sum in order to avoid a larger loss even when they knew a dismissal was entirely fair.

He would not see an increase in the legalisation trend, but some way of reversing it and moving back to greater simplicity.

Mr. Albert Booth, Secretary of State for Employment (Leeds, East, Lab.) said Mr. Ryle knew it was a gross misrepresentation to suggest that he had ever said that the tribunals were a failure.

What he had said was that the industrial tribunal system as an industrial relations fruit machine.

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He had not immediately appreciated the full implications of Mr. Skinner's remarks. He was not reading the Official Report.

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On the industrial relations front, the industrial tribunal awards are being grossly misrepresented.

Over the past 12 years the House has built up a piece by piece legislation to provide for working people the minimum standards of employment. The main objectives have been to ensure a greater measure of social justice in working life, to secure the right of workers to join a trade union, to provide for working people and to outlaw discrimination in employment.

These rights, to a large extent, had come about through the Employment Protection Act, 1975. This Act was a landmark in the history of industrial relations. It was a landmark because it was the first time that the law had been used to enforce the rights of workers.

These tribunals could only act effectively if they had the support and confidence of employers, trade unions and individual workers.

It was highly significant that the tribunals had been used to enforce the rights of workers. It was a landmark because it was the first time that the law had been used to enforce the rights of workers.

Industrial tribunals had been a feature of the industrial relations system for 12 years. They had been given many additional responsibilities.

As their jurisdiction has widened and the cases that have been brought to them have increased, the tribunals have been given many additional responsibilities.

They had introduced them and stood by them, but it was important that they should all look and learn from the experience of the past six years.

They knew that in the 12 months ending in June 1976 cases were being brought to them at a rate of 12,000 a month. This was a significant increase in the number of cases.

It was fairly expensive for employers to defend cases at tribunals. There were cases where employers, on legal advice, paid out a small sum in order to avoid a larger loss even when they knew a dismissal was entirely fair.

He would not see an increase in the legalisation trend, but some way of reversing it and moving back to greater simplicity.

Mr. Albert Booth, Secretary of State for Employment (Leeds, East, Lab.) said Mr. Ryle knew it was a gross misrepresentation to suggest that he had ever said that the tribunals were a failure.

What he had said was that the industrial tribunal system as an industrial relations fruit machine.

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Tele: London 24454

little introspection, and here Mazzal achieved some exquisite

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Telephone: (01) 407 8080 Telegrams: Abinitio, London
Telex: London 22251

THE TIMES

Telephone: (01) 407 8080 Telegrams: Abinitio, London
Telex: London 22251



Legal Appointments



Exceptional opportunity for a young solicitor

City Livery Company

A senior City of London Livery Company wishes to appoint a young solicitor, preferably a graduate, to its staff. The job will call for an unusual combination of skills and interests.

The Company is deeply involved in charitable work, concentrated in fields where it has many years of experience. A small and dedicated professional staff assists the Company's governing body in the management of its affairs. They share the values and ideals derived from the Company's foundation and traditional associations.

The income which supports the Company's charitable and other activities arises mainly from property investments which already rank among the City's more substantial portfolios. The next few years will see a substantial increase in income, and therefore in the scope for charitable work.

Initially, the successful candidate's principal task will be to manage and develop the Company's property portfolio. The work will also cover a wide range of legal and administrative

aspects of the Company's affairs. As well as conveying and other legal skills it will demand administrative competence, commercial acumen, a creative approach and a sound grasp of financial matters. A lively but practical social conscience and a feeling for history will heighten the satisfaction to be gained from working with an ancient guild which continues to play a significant role in our society. The expansion of the Company's activities and retirements from its staff which are expected over the next decade will also offer the right person considerable scope for development. The Company will therefore be looking for evidence of human and leadership abilities.

Candidates should be in their late twenties or early thirties, with broadly based legal experience. A starting salary within the range £7,000 to £9,000 is envisaged, depending on age and experience. Other conditions of employment are excellent, and include membership of the Company's non-contributory pension scheme. Please write for an application form quoting Ref. D6657 to:

PA Advertising

Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE, Tel: 01-235 6060 Telex: 27874



A member of PA International

SOLICITOR

Costain Homes Limited, the Housing Division of the Costain Group of Companies requires a Solicitor to head a small department responsible for conveying and all legal services at the Division's new head office in Marlow.

The post requires a Solicitor with a minimum of one year's qualification who has good conveying experience and the personal qualities necessary to become an integral part of, and make an effective contribution to, the management of the Division. Responsible to the holder of this post will be a senior conveying executive who will undertake the day-to-day operation of the estate sales conveying.

The successful applicant will be responsible to the Managing Director of the Division and functionally to the Group Legal Department.

A competitive salary and a company car will be offered together with excellent working conditions. Relocation expenses will be paid where appropriate.

Please write giving brief details of career to date or phone for an application form to:-



Personnel Controller
Richard Costain Limited
111 Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7UE
(01-928 4977 Ext. 385)

Taxation Lawyer

A leading City firm of Solicitors invites applications from those suitably qualified to join their specialist taxation department. The requirement is for an experienced taxation lawyer, solicitor or barrister, who is capable of dealing with a wide variety of taxation problems, mainly of a corporate nature.

This is a senior appointment and a high salary is envisaged for the successful applicant.

Applications with full details of relevant experience should be made in the first instance to: Box 0072 K, The Times.

Assistant Solicitor

(Company Law/Commercial)

EAST MIDLANDS firm of Solicitors (10 partners) invite applications for the position of Assistant Solicitor to work with partner engaged in company law/commercial field. Some experience is desirable, but a recently admitted Solicitor whose articles were served with a firm substantially engaged in this type of work would be considered. Good working conditions in city centre offices. A salary of up to £6,500 p.a. is envisaged, depending upon age and experience.

Please apply in writing with full c.v. to Box 0035, K, The Times.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

LONDON LEGAL BUREAU. Specialists in the Law of Property. All levels of staff. Partners, Solicitors, Clerks, Typists, Receptionists. Vacancies in all departments. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

ALANGATE Legal Staff, the specialist recruitment agency for legal professionals, is currently seeking a Solicitor to deal with a wide range of legal work. The position offers a high salary and excellent benefits. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

A CAREER OPPORTUNITY. A leading City firm of Solicitors is seeking a Solicitor to deal with a wide range of legal work. The position offers a high salary and excellent benefits. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

CLAYTON EMPLOYMENT AGENCY. Specialists in the recruitment of legal professionals. We are currently seeking a Solicitor to deal with a wide range of legal work. The position offers a high salary and excellent benefits. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

YOUNG SOLICITOR. A leading City firm of Solicitors is seeking a Solicitor to deal with a wide range of legal work. The position offers a high salary and excellent benefits. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

Finance For Industry Limited

YOUNG CORPORATE LAWYER

The FFI Group has its own legal teams who work closely with their financial colleagues in the provision of development finance to British industry. In doing so they rely on and implement the legal work which results from the Group's wide range of services. This is a demanding but exhilarating work requiring a close rapport with members of other professions in the Group.

The vacancy requires two to four years post-qualification experience, a substantial part of which has been gained in a commercial environment.

The appointment offers the opportunity to develop commercial expertise in a professional environment and it is Group policy to encourage the individual's development by in-house and external courses and conferences.

Location will be initially in Solihull, Warwickshire, with the Legal Team serving Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation Limited, FFI's main subsidiary. House Loan facilities will be available, and any necessary relocation expenses reimbursed.

Age Range 25-30.

Please write indicating previous experience and present salary level, which will be treated in strict confidence, to:-

J. DONALD DRIVER
SOLICITOR AND CHIEF LEGAL ADVISER
FINANCE FOR INDUSTRY LIMITED
91 WATERLOO ROAD, LONDON SE1 8XP.

HERBERT SMITH & CO.

wish to engage a recently qualified

SOLICITOR

to join an energetic team specialising in trade mark and passing-off litigation. Previous experience unnecessary, but intelligence and the ability to work hard are pre-requisites. There will also be opportunities to become involved in patent and copyright work. Excellent salary and other conditions of service are offered.

Applications should be made with a full curriculum vitae to The Senior Partner, Herbert Smith & Co, 62 London Wall, London EC2R 7JP.

Mobil Oil Company Limited wish to appoint a

Commercial Lawyer

to a senior post in the Legal Department of their Head Office in Victoria Street. This new position for a Solicitor or Barrister, male or female, arises as a result of an increasing volume of varied legal work associated with the growing activities of the Company. Sound commercial legal experience, and the ability to work without supervision in advising up to and including Board level are essential, but drive and initiative are equally important. Preferred age 28-35.

A very attractive salary is offered, together with a company car scheme, pension and other benefits. Please write giving details of age, qualifications, experience and present salary to:-

Miss J. M. Lamont
Mobil Oil Company Limited
54/60 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QS

PROSECUTING SOLICITOR Based in Bristol

The above post is an office comprising 6 Solicitors employed by the Avon and Somerset Police Authority to advise and conduct prosecutions for the police mainly, but not exclusively in the Bristol Magistrates Court, will shortly be vacant on the departure of the present holder to the Solomon Islands.

Salary scale P.O.1 (6-10) £5,926-£6,577 including supplements under phases 1 and 2. Usual local government conditions of service apply.

Those solicitors with advocacy experience, preferably in prosecuting, who seek an increasing and worthwhile career helping to uphold the rule of law and who would like to work in one of the most pleasant parts of the country can obtain further particulars and application form from:

OLIVER LOYBOND, CHIEF PROSECUTING SOLICITOR,
Colston House, Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5AU
Tel.: (0272) 298 266, preferably before 10 a.m.
Closing date December 12, 1977

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HONGKONG SOLICITOR

Advocate, experienced in Criminal Law required by Hongkong practice. 3 years' experience. Salary negotiable. Ian Sheratt & Co. 01-353 4788

TRUST ADMINISTRATOR

LARGE private company seeks qualified solicitor to administer Family Trust in City, reporting to director. Experience essential in C.T.T. essential. Age 35-50. Salary £6,000++.

Contract J. Loughborough Ltd., 7 Gresham St. E.C.2. Tel: 247 1388.

Appointments Vacant

Senior Oilfield Accountants

Home & Overseas Employment

Major Oilfield Drilling Contractor Company have career employment vacancies for applicants who are well qualified for Oil Field work in Home or Overseas locations.

Excellent earnings, good advancement prospects, insurance coverage, etc.

Send résumé plus passport type photograph, quoting Reference PB 228, to: Peter F. Brandon, Director - Recruitment.



Walter Judd Limited

(Recruitment Division)

1a Bow Lane London EC4M 9EJ

Tel: 01-236 4541

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If you have two or three years' experience of copy preparation/proofreading, or make-up, or production, good command of English and preferably some education in science, we should like to hear from you. Varied list of books and journals. New offices. Plenty of scope.

Please write with c.v. to The Publishing Director, Heydon & Son Ltd, Spectrum House, Millview Gardens, NW4 2JQ.

WANTED

Physicians to relocate to a private small group practice in the United States (rural Kansas). Tremendous income. Reasonable hours with free time available.

Call 01-997 7178 days or 01-997 2055 evenings, to arrange interviews with U.S. physicians for Saturday, November 26th or mail inquiries to 15 Bradley Gardens, Ealing, London, W13.

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STOCKBROKERS in City require recent top class graduates for positions in the City. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

GENERAL VACANCIES

AKERS - Paul and Peter. We are looking for a Solicitor to deal with a wide range of legal work. The position offers a high salary and excellent benefits. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

TUTOR WANTED. Experienced Tutor aged 25-35. Required to live in and to teach in a private home. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

WOLFSON College Cambridge. A domestic helper, whose duties might also be combined with a college course for managers, is required. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secret.

MARRIED COUPLE REQUIRED

Married couple required for domestic work. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

RESIDENT HOUSEKEEPER

Small family living in Central London. Housekeeper required. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

SYDNEY-AUSTRALIA

Position available in Sydney, Australia. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

NANNY

French speaking. Aged 30-50 for a young girl and mother. First 5 months in New York. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

TRAINED HANNY WANTED

For one year. Very interesting. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

DIRECTOR'S COOK

City. Good salary. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

AMERICAN NEEDS

Wanted for his home and family. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

ITALY - Nanny/Mother's

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Wanted for his home and family. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

MIDDLE EAST

Wanted for his home and family. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

ST. CHIEF MANAGER

City. Good salary. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

REQUIRE

French girl 18, good family. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

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Medium sized firm of chartered accountants offers a training position of salary of £4,000 p.a. to a graduate with a degree in accountancy. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

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£6,000 P.A.

This established West End fashion co. offer an exciting and challenging position of salary of £6,000 p.a. to a graduate with a degree in fashion design. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

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CHIEF PHARMACIST

ROYAL HOSPITAL & HOME

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The Board of Management of this old voluntary hospital is seeking a Chief Pharmacist to head the pharmacy department. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

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An experienced and motivated sales executive is required to introduce a novel product into the market. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

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TO £6,000 + + +

Internationally renowned company offers an opportunity for a sales manager to head a new department. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of London

King's College

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Applications are invited for a

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

In Mathematics for nine months from 1st January 1978, or as soon as possible thereafter. The work is concerned with the theory of differential equations. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

SALES NEGOTIATOR

If you have the experience and personality to succeed in a sales position, we have a vacancy for a sales negotiator. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

Westminster Abbey

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Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the position of Manager Designate. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST

LECTURESHIPS IN LAW

Applications are invited for lectureships in Law. Write to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. No fee to applicants. Ring 278 5111, 278 5112, 278 5113.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO

INVITATION TO CONSTRUCTION AGENCIES AND CONTRACTORS TO PREQUALIFY FOR ROADWORKS

The Government of Lesotho proposes to let a contract during the first quarter of

No capital allowances on cost of oil rig loans

not the oil rig but the financial facilities to acquire it. The company's submissions really amounted to rewriting section 41 so as to permit first-year allowances from capital expenditure incurred not merely on the "provision" of a plant but also in "connections with" the plant or provision.

plant" but also in "connection therewith" if the cost of financing for the plant or provision thereof for the plant was to be allowed, where Mr. Danvers asked, would it stop; numerous could be obtained in numerous many many ways, without expense. Further, a drilling rig could be built without borrowing money and the cost thereof could be paid out of the money had been borrowed or not.

His Lordship had reached the view that the Crown's case was that the money was not to be drawn in the context of the present case between money spent on the purchase of the machinery or plant which the machinery or plant was acquired and the

Two Post Office vans raided

Five masked raiders, some armed with shotguns, attacked a Post Office van at Kingstanding, Birmingham, yesterday and fled with sacks thought to contain up to £70,000 in cash.

Another Post Office van was

at
r-
s

at least four masked men,
Liverpool, by one with a
who escaped with £20,000

Form of criminal bankruptcy orders

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

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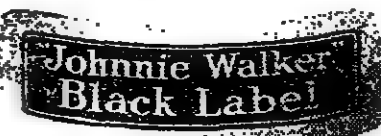
How to address judges

A



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Black has always been the ultimate.



EXTRA SPECIAL OLD SCOTCH WHISKY

هكذا من الاصل

Back with pride and a tear, the tank men who broke through at Cambrai

Paris Two coachloads of those who were left and who have thus grown old made special pilgrimage to France at the weekend. In that area where every road sign reads like a regimental battle honour, they found themselves fated as conquering heroes in a countryside where heroes' names are found in thousands carved on tombstones that stand in stiff rows in cemeteries that seem to lie at the end of every side turning.

The coach trippers, who returned to "Bligny" today, were men of the Battle of Cambrai, one of the great indecisive battles of the First World War. It was fought just 60 years ago.

When it began at 6.20 on the morning of November 20, 1917, the British Army were in entrenched stalemate before the Hindenburg Line. When early snow fell on the battlefield 16 days later and all was quiet the Allied and German high commands could make the reckoning. If the Hindenburg Line had been broken for a few miles, the German counter-attack had broken the old British line for at least an equal distance to the south. Nineteen British divisions had been broken for a few miles, the German counter-attack had broken the old British line for at least an equal distance to the south. Nineteen British divisions had been broken for a few miles, the German counter-attack had broken the old British line for at least an equal distance to the south.

The tank no longer made it necessary for them to dig in after an advance. Had they surged on at that pace, the German counter-attack would have had no time to form up and deliver its neutralizing blow within 10 days.

The rapid advance at Cambrai was achieved by sending in tanks to clear the way for following close behind—a set piece manoeuvre the German army used to tellingly at the start of the last war. Sadly their deployment at Cambrai by commanding officers unskilled in their use made "inevitable" heavy losses higher and gave weight to the argument when the battle was over that the tank was not really a good. When their first commander, General Hugh Elles, inspected them after the battle nearly half the tanks were destroyed and of those remaining many needed extensive repairs. From three brigades 188 officers and 965 men had been lost.

The men who came to Cambrai last weekend were among the survivors of all the regiments that took part. Their average age was 82 and only a very few of them had ever seen the stench of the battlefield, of dead brothers and three towers of the cathedral in the unbreachable distance 60 years before.

Just why they came at all might seem a mystery. To hear them talk, the stench of the battlefield, of dead brothers and three towers of the cathedral in the unbreachable distance 60 years before.

Union Jacks and Tricolors for the visit. Out in the countryside, where they toured those little villages they helped to destroy in the battle, all the local mayors, red, white and blue scarf tied round them, were waiting to greet them.

There were well-meaning off-key bands, incomprehensible speeches of welcome and lastings of champagne all along the way. Some recognized, or thought they did, a place where they had fought. All wondered at the way nature had won back the battlefield, turning the scene of so much carnage into a peaceful countryside of beetroots and grain fields again.

On Sunday they were taken in for inspection along with the Royal Tank Corps' Cambrai Staff Band—paying its first visit to the town since the detachment and men from the French Army and Air Force. The old east wind drove into the veterans' backs as they waited half an hour for the review. Every hat came off as Gold Save the Queen answered the Marcellaise from the band and, if a couple of less disciplined ones doubled into a cafe for a quick brandy at the end, they all tasted the course.

But for many, if not all of the veterans, this journey to Cambrai had been as searing an experience as that first near visit. It started when their coaches arrived in the town, two hours late. It was wet and it was cold and they all felt pretty miserable. And then there were the children of Cambrai lined up to greet them. These children had been outside getting colder and colder all that time, but as the coaches drew up they cheered and waved their flags.

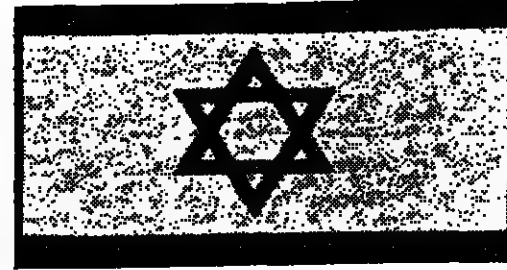
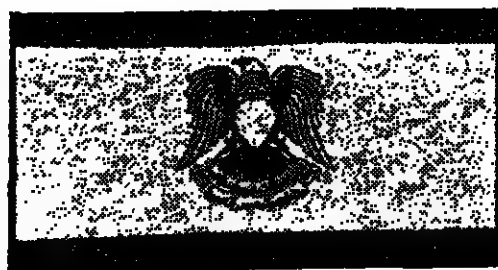
The next day, as they toured the villages, the reaction was the same. The children came and gave them presents and pinned little flags in their buttonholes and cheered them and many of the old men blessed the cold wind that bit into their faces and gave their eyes an excuse to water. At one stop the children waved a Union Jack with the motto stitched across it in English: "Our children understand how their fate was changed and by whose hand." Some of the old men cried unashamedly.

The second visit to Cambrai may have been conceived as nothing more than a form of ritual homage on the one side and of nostalgia on the other. As it happened, the young children of France taught the old soldiers of Britain a lesson. They understood, perhaps for the first time, that the story had a happy ending.

Ian Murray

A chance to achieve the impossible by doing the inconceivable

Bernard Levin



It says a good deal for the overwhelming political, emotional and psychological rightness of President Sadat's visit to Israel that not even Mr Andrew Faulds—any, not so much as Sir Harold Beeley or Miss Marion Woolfson—has denounced it as part of the Zionist conspiracy. Praise be to, among others, Allah.

The speeches of the Egyptian President and the Israeli Prime Minister have been naturally scrutinized with microscopic care by all the experts on Middle Eastern affairs. That kind of dowsing, however, is not my trade, and the very proper attitudes of wonderment and of praise for an astonishingly courageous initiative, have been amply expressed by others.

What, then, have I to add? Only this, on one of my favourite themes: that although the man who makes the hole in the hedge is apt to get horribly scratched by the brambles, those who follow him through it not only do so unscathed, but tend to wonder what all the fuss was about.

What the Egyptian's visit has done is to make real, to many on both sides in the Middle East, the abstractions that their opponents have hitherto been. The banishes howling of the hedge is apt to get horribly scratched by the brambles, those who follow him through it not only do so unscathed, but tend to wonder what all the fuss was about.

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medals they award themselves. (Mind you, Mr Begin's election, only a few months ago, provoked a chorus of doom, his past record and present intransigence being held to make certain a perpetuation of the conflict; yet it was he who extended the historic invitation.) If we ignore the caperings, however, we can see, through the dust, a good many in the Middle East who will certainly recognize President Sadat's initiative as being in their interest. The Jordanians, obviously, the eternally cautious Saudis (despite their public criticism of President Sadat's visit), who know that lighted matches are not good things to keep near oil; behind all, the weight of the Shah.

But my point does not really concern even these considerations. The real value of the initiative is that, by doing the inconceivable, it has made likely the impossible.

Think: Israeli citizens have seen Egyptian flags flying in their streets, and heard a man, whose country they have been told by their leaders is pledged to destroy their state and them, say in the most unequivocal terms that he accepts their right to live in peace and statehood. Many of them, no doubt, will not believe him; but many others, next time their own hawks demand support for the hard line that keeps them in office, will prefer the evidence of their own eyes and ears.

Nor do I at all despair of the same thing happening among the Arab populations now. True, most of the Arab leaders, having nothing much, or even nothing at all, to worry about in the way of elections, are neither particularly sensitive to public opinion nor particularly scrupulous about insisting that it is behind them. But I often wonder how fierce is the desire of the average Egyptian or Syrian or Iraqi to get himself killed in making Palestine a home fit for Mr Habash to live in.

And then, think of the secondary effect on the Israelis. President Sadat's words, I have believed ever since the Yom Kippur war, which so signally shook the Israelis' belief in their own military invulnerability, that all that was still needed to start the wheels of peace was similar shock to their mind's conviction of the moral superiority of their cause. The Egyptian President, in attacking that conviction, brought no new arguments to bear; but he said it (and consequently directly to them, and I should be very surprised indeed if there were not large numbers of Israelis who, as they listened, found themselves realizing for the first time that the Arabs have a case as just as theirs).

In other words, the visit has shifted the standpoint of the observers. If it is possible for

the President of Egypt to tell the Israelis, in their own Parliament and by their own invitation, to give back the Arab lands they occupy, it is now also possible for them to think seriously about doing so.

That is really what I meant about the hole and the hedge. One of the most hopeful characteristics of the human race is its ability to accept the previously unacceptable as soon as it has happened, and however its happening has come about. (Look, for example, at the way in which American racial attitudes began to change as soon as the main body of her civil rights legislation was enacted. The United States has a long way to go before she becomes truly colour-blind, but if it comes to that, the Middle East will not achieve enduring peace by next Wednesday afternoon.)

Sadat and Begin have between them belted the cat. One of the most promising and attractive aspects of the visit was the complete absence of the usual squabbles over protocol: the shape of the discussion table, the order of precedence of guests and hosts, the definition of the entire programme, the language in which the words were to be spoken, the redness of the carpet and the number of gums in the salure—all these trivialities, which have so often held up peace negotiations while men

continue to die, were dispensed with. The Israeli invited the Egyptian, and the Egyptian accepted the invitation, and everything else simply happened; apart from anything else, the meeting must have increased the respect of each man for the other, which can do nothing but good.

So I am more hopeful now about an eventual Middle Eastern settlement than I have ever been. For it can almost be said now that there are no non-negotiable positions any longer. Israeli withdrawal from Sinai? Unimaginable! Arab-Israeli co-operation on desert reclamation schemes, Israeli-Arab accord on health promotion? Unbelievable! As unthinkable, unimaginable and unbelievable, anyway, as a visit by the President of Egypt to Israel, a visit including an official speech to the Israeli Parliament, not to mention the playing of the Egyptian National Anthem by the band of an Israeli guard of honour.

Hedges are quickly destroyed, but grow slowly. No doubt less brightly spotted negotiations will now continue between Egypt and Israel, and they may come to real fruition in an agreement involving genuine concessions on both sides. If so, so much the better; but even if not, the effect of President Sadat's visit will go on seeping into the consciousness of millions throughout the Middle East and the imagination of millions more elsewhere. From the moment President Sadat came down the aircraft steps—well, to be on the safe side, let us say, the moment he went up them again—it was possible to say that the Middle Eastern debate, always armed and four times bloody, had fundamentally shifted its very axis, not just its terms. Mahomet has come to the mountain; I would not now rule out even the possibility of Moses going to the valley.

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Why the British grant to Bolivia was stopped

Lord Chalfont (The Times, November 13) comments on the British Government's decision to cancel the proposed £19m grant to the Bolivian mining industry and makes accusations of double standards. While whitewashing the appalling situation of human rights in Bolivia, Lord Chalfont accuses us in the NUM, who campaigned for the blocking of the grant, of "cynical disregard" for the tin miners of Bolivia.

In other quarters, however, notably among Bolivia's miners themselves, the decision was welcomed unreservedly. Two weeks ago Dr Luis Adolfo Siles, the last civilian President of Bolivia and a respected social democrat, spoke to the NUM in London of the joy felt by Bolivia's miners and many other workers at the British Government's decision.

Why did the Bolivian miners press for the cancellation of this grant? To understand, we must look at the general situation of human rights in Bolivia and the tin miners' strike of June 1976 in particular. Since General Banzer came to power in 1971, Bolivia has been ruled by a repressive military regime. Opposition and dissent have been met with brutality. For example, in January 1974 the army massacred a hundred peasants in Cochabamba because they were demonstrating against massive increases in food prices. The regime indulged in repression in November 1974 when trade union activity and political parties were suspended. Political imprisonment, torture and exile have been commonplace. Even the extent that Colonel Selich, one of General Banzer's former ministers, died in detention as a result of torture.

In November 1974 the Law of

Compulsory Civil Service was introduced. Article 6 states: "Any person who refuses or offers resistance to the mission, work or services which the government assigns to him will be punished with imprisonment of two years or alternatively with his expulsion from the country." Lord Chalfont asserts that it is to the credit of the Banzer regime that "individual politicians even of opposition parties are offered and accept government appointments." Faced with such a Hobson's choice, this is not surprising, but hardly creditable.

Following the abolition of union activity, Decree Law 11952 established government appointment of labour coordinators to replace democratically elected trade union leaders. Several trade unionists were offered positions as "labour coordinators" but again not surprisingly, most trade union leaders refused to act as stooges of the regime. They were imprisoned or exiled, under the Compulsory Civil Service Law. Today there are more than 5,000 Bolivians living in enforced exile, including the major political opposition and trade union leadership. Decree 11947 prohibits strikes and stoppages and orders the immediate dismissal of all trade union leaders involved in such action.

Despite this legislation miners' leaders continued to hold unofficial meetings. In May 1976, the banned miners' union, FSTMB, managed to elect a congress at which they elected new leaders and decided a wage increase from US\$1.75 a day to US\$4. While feigning negotiations with the FSTMB, the government ordered troops to occupy the mines. The miners went on

strike in protest, and the government responded by cutting off food supplies and drinking water to the mining communities. The army arrested more than 300 leaders throughout the country and exiled 52 of them to the United States. A wage settlement was imposed on the miners (after consultation with "labour coordinators") which met only a fraction of the demands, but attached were promises of improved housing, education and recreation facilities. Ultimately, this sugar on the pill of the enforced settlement would have been financed out of the British government's £19m grant.

Following the strike, the NUM, which had been in touch with the Bolivian miners for some time, accepted their invitation to visit Bolivia and to see their working and living conditions. This we did in April 1977. The visit was secret, first since the Bolivian miners warned that there would be grave danger of reprisals from the authorities should the miners speak openly to us. Second, we had reason to believe that the delegation would not have been allowed to operate freely.

To cite just two examples. M Marcel Pepin, of the World Confederation of Labour, was expelled from the country in late 1976. Just last month a delegation from the ILO found itself accompanied by an army colonel when it visited the mining areas.

The vast majority of our contacts in Bolivia were not "disidents on the run" as Lord Chalfont so quaintly puts it but included large numbers of working miners, nuns and priests, human rights and development

agency workers, and members of responsible political parties fortunate enough not to have been exiled. Furthermore, we would like to point out to Lord Chalfont and his researcher (sic) that at no stage during 1976 did the NUM make approaches through the British Embassy in La Paz or through anybody else for permission to visit Bolivia. This can be confirmed with the Foreign Office.

During our visit the army still occupied the mines. We saw the appalling working conditions of the miners and some of the rule of terror which the mining communities were living. Our ensuing report was our modest attempt to communicate this to our fellow trade unionists in this country and was never intended as the definitive work on Bolivia.

Everybody who spoke to in Bolivia was firmly opposed to the proposed British grant until such time as political prisoners were released, exiles allowed home and free trade union activity again permitted in the mines. The miners understood the implications of their stand. They realized that the renewal of obsolete equipment in the mines was both long overdue and critical to their safety. In a situation where an underground face worker could earn first-class salaries within five years and his average life expectancy is little over 30, this cannot have been an easy decision. However, as one miner put it, "of course we need the money to modernize the mines, but we don't want it if it assists repression."

It became abundantly clear to us that to make an extraordinary grant of this size unconditionally to the Bolivian mining

corporation when the miners were being brutally oppressed would have been an endorsement of that repression. Dr David Owen has often emphasized the importance he attaches to human rights considerations in determining Britain's aid and foreign policy. The provisions of this grant at this time would have made a mockery of this commitment.

Thus the NUM, together with the TUC, development agencies, human rights organizations, church groups and MPs of all parties, campaigned vigorously for human rights conditions to be attached to the Bolivian grant—a position supported in The Times editorial of June 23. In August it was not Mrs Judith Hart alone but the Cabinet minister, after considerable discussion, who agreed to the grant.

Lord Chalfont's decision to cancel the project, in our view, quite rightly. "The NUM's stand is not a public posturing and sanctimonious ranting to use Lord Chalfont's phrase, but a statement of moral principle. We condemn the violation of human rights and trade union freedoms wherever they may occur. Indeed the NUM has in recent years campaigned for basic human freedoms not only in South Africa, China, Iran and Bolivia but also Poland and Czechoslovakia. The NUM is prepared to make up the challenge on behalf of oppressed peoples everywhere. We would like to think Lord Chalfont's own position is just as unequivocal."

Ken Toon, Ted McKay and Joe McKie
NUM Delegation to Bolivia
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Humour springs eternal from Mr Hope

The four-piece orchestra at Claridge's was still polishing its arrangement of *Thanks for the Memory* when Bob Hope stroled past them, briefly nodded and acknowledged his signature tune, adjusted his tie and walked into the press reception.

It was a restrained Mr Hope we met yesterday. Perhaps he was tired after a morning spent rehearsing for last night's royal variety show. Clearly, the shock of Bing Crosby's death has left him shaken. Many of the questions we asked concerned his old sparring partner, and he grew visibly sadder as he answered them. Each one, clearly, was an intimation of his own mortality.

It would be wrong, however, to record the occasion only as a classic situation of the clown with a broken heart. Mr Hope can still pull some funny rabbits out of his hat.

What did he think of Concorde, in which he had flown to London? "It's so fast. Give me a couple of extra hours to look for my luggage. And it flies so high, I swear I heard the organs playing."

What did he think of President Carter? "I feel immortal."

What had been responsible for his long and happy marriage to the same woman? "Lots of travel away from home. Been married for 43



years; been home for two months. My wife is writing a book which she's going to call *If you see Bob, say hello*."

The most interesting item of news I gleaned from Mr Hope was that he hopes to play Walter Winchell in a cinema film or TV film that will be based on Bob Thomas's biography of that distinguished American journalist and broadcaster who died five years ago.

It would be a serio-comic role in a serio-comic film and Mr Hope thinks it could bring him his first Oscar. In a serio-comic comment Mr Hope said that, apart from his comedy, he felt completely fulfilled as man and artist.

Keeping a civil servant on ice

Everyone knows that civil servants are no longer chinses wonders, who spend all day drinking tea and who went to Eton (except for the ones who made the tea who went to Harrow). Alan Blackshaw, the director of the Office of Supplies Office in Glasgow, however, certainly confounds the old image.

Mr Blackshaw has been awarded the Pery Medal—the highest civilian honour in Britain, after completing a 1,600-mile ski traverse from the northernmost tip of Norway to the country's south coast. The trek occupied three and a half weeks, the highest peaks in Norway, Finland and Sweden.

As the achievement might suggest, Mr Blackshaw is addicted to long distance ski sorties. A former instructor in mountain warfare with the Royal Marines, he led the first British traverse of the Alps on skis. He is the author of the most comprehensive modern textbook on mountaineering and is a former president of the British Mountaineering Council.

The case of the Innergrunts and the Outergrunts leads me to believe that something has gone wrong with Canada's efforts to project an accurate picture of itself to Hongkong. Or at least, not to overstate the case, to one 11-year-old girl in the crown colony.

A school essay, forwarded to Ottawa by the Canadian immigration office in Hongkong, the girl sums up the two-way human flow thus: "Many Chinese go to Canada as innergrunts to open restaurants and other businesses. And many Canadians, called Outergrunts, come to Hongkong to open banks and make money."

In Canada, she says, "many shops have over 20 flavours of ice cream". No doubt, an accurate observation. "They also had hamburgers before we did." No less likely.

But then the essay ventures, almost surrealistically, into the

Getting round a rearguard action

Someone, somewhere, in South Africa does not care for Vanessa Redgrave's naked posterior. I don't know, however, whether it is hers in particular which is considered objectionable, or bare buttocks in general.

The fact remains that someone was sufficiently shocked when they saw Miss Redgrave's posterior in the women's magazine *Fair Lady*, to lodge a complaint with the country's publications control board. As a result, all 200,000 copies of the magazine have been banned.

Those who still wish to catch a glimpse of Miss Redgrave's buttocks can do so at the same picture appears in a photographic book which is freely available. This anomaly comes about because the publication of the book is controlled by different committees to censor books and magazines.

Miss Redgrave can rest assured that she is in good company in being banned. Last week from Ottawa to the young lady, who ends her essay: "I'd like one day to be an innergrunt."

The shops that keep foreign tourists in socks, vests and pants might not see them the likeliest source for fine wines but Marks and Spencer's have had such plaudits for their cheap plaudits that they are venturing into classier bottlings. Their champagne was ranked by *Decanter* magazine among the grandest marques, and their Asil Spumante and claret are ranked best buys in the current *Good Wine Guide*. Now comes a chateau-bottled range of excellent 1975 claret, Chateau Pas de Razaan, which I heartily recommend for laying down.



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THE No. 1 CRISIS INDUSTRY

British Steel is rapidly reaching the point at which the Government might find it expedient to lop the excess noughts off the loss figures in an effort to give it a fresh start. The state-owned undertaking's deficit is at present increasing at a rate of about £10m a week, or £500m a year—a figure that is likely to be confirmed by the BSC chairman, Sir Charles Villiers, when he presents the state-owned undertaking's half-yearly results later this week.

If the losses are eventually written off—in Parliamentary terms, this method of dealing with a difficult situation is sometimes known as "undertaking a financial reconstruction"—will anything have changed? The short answer is "No". The state-owned steel sector in Britain will continue to lurch from one difficult to another impossible situation until fundamental changes are made both in its structure and in its outlook.

Many of the changes that need to be made are well-known and easily enumerated. They relate mainly to structure. Less well recognized are the alterations in outlook, or long-term policy as it is formally described, that now need to go with them. It is as true today as it was five, ten, or even 20 years ago that the industry is heavily overmanned and at some locations is using outdated equipment in old-fashioned plants. At least 60,000 men need to be moved out, and works that are no longer cap-

able of producing steel economically have to be closed.

These are facts that were recognized by the renationalised concern's first chairman, Lord Melchett, and were equally recognized by his successor, Sir Monty Finniston. They are understood by Sir Charles, today's incumbent, but like his predecessors he has been able to make little progress in overcoming them.

Basic truths about British Steel have tended to be obscured in recent months by statements that steelmakers throughout the world are losing vast sums of money. It is well-known that America's Bethlehem Steel, comparable in some ways to the British undertaking, has incurred heavy losses, as have many European producers. But in general, these losses are likely to disappear when the recession ends, because the plants incurring them are seen at heart and will be the first to benefit from the eventual upturn in demand.

This is not the case where many of the British plants are concerned, and the fact that they are allowed to continue in existence is not solely the result of union pressure to maintain labour forces. It is, more relevantly, a reflection of timidity on the part of prominent members of the Government who represent steelmaking constituencies and are not willing to suffer political setbacks by increasing unemployment levels.

But modernization alone is no longer the complete answer to steel's problems. The Corporation itself admits that closure of its old plant would only reduce its

current losses by about a fifth. While steel's successive chairmen have struggled to pull the industry into the post-war world, against the protestations of the unions and their political supporters, the world itself has been changing. The plan for British steel that originally envisaged the shipping of 6m tonnes a year to overseas buyers is no longer realistic; rapidly developing nations such as Brazil and South Korea now have works of their own—and these plants are more modern, have lower wages and modern men; overall consumption is not rising rapidly enough to offset these additions to world capacity.

Indeed, there are now serious doubts about the validity of Britain remaining in business at all where general steelmaking is concerned. Basic items can be made, as well and better in developing countries as they can here. Where British experience is still valid is in the manufacture of high quality, high value steels, and there may well be a case for considering specialization of this kind when drafting long-term policy.

In the shorter term, it is to be hoped that talks between the major steelmaking nations and groups will continue. Recent moves towards protectionism, if continued, will only aggravate a difficult situation. The fixing of production and price levels are distasteful to democratic countries, but such methods, particularly when they are intended only for a limited period, are less likely to cause long-term damage than the re-erection of tariff walls.

hopes that freedom would bring economic miracles. The country has been burdened by very high defence costs because of its confrontation with Turkey, and it has suffered from the sluggish state of the European and world economies. Its own efforts at reform have also been slow, which is more directly the fault of the Government, and investment has been falling off. Voters were tempted by the promise of change, faster reform, and a reassertion of Greek confidence.

It is a pity that many of them looked for this from Mr Papandreou, who sought to exacerbate rather than overcome their distrust of their western allies, but the result can still be turned to good use. In the first place Mr Papandreou may become more responsible in opposition than on the campaign trail—or if not he will probably lose votes in the future. In the second place both Mr Karamanlis and Greece's friends and allies abroad have served notice that some hard work is required to rebuild confidence in the western alliance. Mr Papandreou's vision of half joining the third world while negotiating specially favourable relations with the European Community is a chimera. The west cannot do without Greece, but Greece cannot do without the west. Both the western allies and Mr Karamanlis now have new reasons for working to persuade the Greek people of this.

A MAJORITY, BUT A WARNING

The Greek election results are disappointing but they are also a salutary warning. Greece's allies were so impressed by the success of Mr Karamanlis in the 1974 elections that they came to feel they could take him for granted. They gave the impression of being paralysed (with some reason, admittedly) by the problems of getting Greece into the European Community. They were also paralysed by the deadlock in Turkish politics, which gave Greeks the impression of being unsupported. The bill for this and for the long years of unwise American support for the military dictatorship is now being presented in the form of the advance of Mr Papandreou, who has established his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) as the main opposition party by winning about a quarter of the vote. Mr Karamanlis still has a comfortable majority, but it is much reduced and he did not obtain a majority of the votes cast.

His success was earned by very intense and expert organizational work over three years but also by a campaign which mixed fashionable ideas on self-management and decentralization with promises to the farmers and with nationalistic resentment against NATO, the Americans, the multinational companies and other "unholy bogymen". "A Greece that belongs to the Greeks" was one of his slogans. He suggested that NATO was conspiring with

Turkey against Greece, and that American facilities in Greece were for spying on Greece rather than for defending her. He favoured a collective European defence system by countries of a "federal socialist Europe", whatever that means, and supported "all liberation movements fighting against imperialism". He suggested that Greek accession to the European Community "will consolidate the peripheral role of the country as a satellite of the capitalist system; will render national planning impossible; will seriously threaten Greek industry; and will lead to the extinction of the Greek farmer".

That this curious mish-mash of unreal hopes and accusations should appeal to a quarter of Greek voters is discouraging because it reveals a deep vein of disillusion and distrust, but it is not wholly surprising. America's long support for the dictatorship and NATO's impotence over Cyprus were bound to exact a high cost in lost confidence. The high tide of support for Mr Karamanlis was also bound to ebb at some point. The last elections were held in the euphoric but worried aftermath of the fall of the dictators, with the possibility of their return still in everyone's minds. Sunday's elections were held in more normal circumstances and produced a result somewhat nearer Greek normality.

There has naturally been dis-

MR VANCE: NO MERE ROUTINE VISIT

This week's trip to South America by Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, is a chance to tackle the quite serious differences that have developed between the Americans and several Latin American countries, principally over human rights and nuclear non-proliferation. President Carter was to have gone to Venezuela and Brazil himself this month, but had to postpone the visits because of difficulties in Washington. So it has been left to Mr Vance, on a trip to Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela, to take on the task of soothing ruffled feelings—and at the same time promoting the American point of view. It is an exercise that requires a good deal of tact, something that has not always been evident in American dealings with their southern neighbours.

Mr Carter's decision to emphasize the importance of human rights was in many ways one of the best things that could have happened to Latin America at this point. So much of the area is suffering under the repression of military regimes, and the time is now ripe for a swing of the pendulum back to more liberal systems. But blunt statements

and arm-twisting from Washington were bound to upset touchy army men—just as they did the Kremlin—and Mr Carter seems to have underestimated the sharpness of the reaction. In response, he has given the impression of reducing his campaign for human rights in Latin America for fear of alienating the military governments.

Clearly he has to take some account of these governments' feelings if the Americans are to retain their influence in the area. The Latin Americans have always resented American dominance and Brazil, now an increasingly important country, has begun to follow a more independent foreign policy. Argentina, too, has developed its trade with the Soviet Union. But they still remain heavily dependent on loans and investment from the United States, and are showing signs of being concerned over the new prominence given to human rights. There is every reason for keeping up the pressure on this issue, especially as the military governments were often helped to power by the Americans.

Resistance on the nuclear issue is likely to be tougher. When it tried earlier this year to block

the huge deal between Brazil and West Germany for the purchase of nuclear reactors, on the grounds that it included enrichment and reprocessing facilities that could be used for making bombs, the Carter Administration ran into a flat refusal. In Argentina, nuclear power is already more developed, and officials have bluntly said they could make a bomb if they wanted. Since neither country has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty there are grounds for concern, and the Americans are right to do what they can to keep the situation in the area under control.

Mr Vance's final stop, in Caracas, is in many ways the easiest of the three, since Venezuela is one of the few remaining democracies in Latin America, and has joined enthusiastically in Mr Carter's human rights campaign. There, it will be a matter of oil prices and of trying to persuade Venezuela, as an influential member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, that there should be little or no increase next year. Venezuela is very sensitive about American economic influence, and one more country in which tact is needed.

widespread gratitude and will avoid the risk of more bureaucratic solutions. With respect to Mr J. R. Pritchard (November 5), I must rank among those the procedure under the 1974 Control of Pollution Act. It really should not be necessary for raters to pay officials to serve notices on offenders and to prescribe ways for them to cease the nuisance. As Mr Wheeler has clearly shown, the industry, backed by public opinion, can handle the trouble at source but will probably need a simple legislative back-up to deal with it completely. Your correspondence reveals that the aim is agreed and is practicable. Can effective action now ensue? Yours faithfully, E. M. NICHOLSON, 13 Upper Cheyne Row, SW3. November 7.

Silencing burglar alarms

May I now request Mr Wheeler not to wait for the code of practice, which he suspects will fail, but to take immediate back-up action:

- (1) to arrange a 24-hour keyholder service by the industry as he suggests
- (2) to seek agreement that installing companies will henceforth strongly advise their customers to include a time cut-out device in every new or newly serviced installation, or a flashing light as an alternative when available
- (3) make known the industry's readiness to support practical legislation to penalise users who fail to provide an efficient keyholding service, or to prevent nuisance from needlessly prolonged ringing of these bells.

If he will do this he will earn

Awarding criminal legal aid

From the Chairman of the Bar

Sir, Mr Montgomery-Campbell's letter of November 16 canvassed the possibility of a scheme for the assessment of eligibility for criminal legal aid analogous to that presently operated in respect of civil legal aid. Public discussion of what Lord Widgery referred to as the lack of proper financial control of criminal legal aid is obviously desirable. Mr Montgomery-Campbell's letter touches upon, though it does not resolve, a problem of fundamental public importance. Every criminal trial concerns the liberty of the subject and the law is founded upon the presumption of innocence. Therefore, private consideration (even by a highly respected and independent committee of lawyers or of laymen) of whether or not a particular defendant has a defence which is worthy of support from public funds necessitates some judgment of whether or not that defendant is or may be guilty; that judgment is then made otherwise than by a jury which alone has the responsibility of reaching a verdict of guilty or not guilty. In a criminal case, the position of a defendant, who maintains his innocence but who is refused legal aid by such a committee, would be impossible for a jury to judge. It would quickly recognize that his appearance, without legal representation, plainly showed that some responsible body had already decided that he had no defence "worth the candle".

There are important and recognizable reasons for the increased length of some criminal trials, among them improved investigatory techniques and manpower. For example, in fraud cases, greater sophistication of criminal methods, increased independence of juries and recognition by them of complex legal practice as criminal, and public concern that criminal guilt should not be established until there has been the most thorough examination of the relevant facts by both prosecution and defence.

In this context, a greater measure of caution on the part of counsel instructed by either prosecution or defence, even though it may add something to the length of a trial is understandable. Prolongation of a trial due to incompetence or error, however, ought immediately to be dealt with by the trial judge. Further, as recently seen in the Annual Statement for 1976-77 the Professional Conduct Committee of

the Bar Council reassessed counsel's duty "in every case to use his best endeavours to avoid waste of the court's time and unnecessary expenditure".

The protection of the public purse by financial control of criminal legal aid is already provided for in each individual case by both the limit on fees fixed by statutory regulation and the precise assessment of the fair and reasonable fee by the taxing officer of the court after the case has been completed. An effective method of obtaining additional control could include:

- i) early assessment of the contribution which a legally assisted defendant should make towards his own costs;
- ii) requiring, wherever possible, a downpayment by a defendant accepting criminal legal aid on the terms as to contribution offered;
- iii) the court making a realistic order for payment of the balance of the assessed contribution.

The present annual cost of criminal legal aid at all levels of jurisdiction—magistrates' courts, the crown court and above—is approximately £37m (1976-77 figures) to cover both legal costs and all other disbursements: the sum covered by way of contributions was approximately £1.1m or, say, 2.9 per cent. On the face of it, this recovery rate is unacceptably low.

At the same time, it must be recognized that the net cost per head of the population of less than £1 a year our criminal legal system has gained the admiration of those concerned with the quality of criminal justice in every free country. It has ensured that any person accused of crime, however poor, however unpopular his case has the same access to the services of the Bar as the rich and the powerful, and the most popular. The Bar has already taken and will continue to take steps to promote procedural changes designed to reduce costs and delay, for example, the pre-trial review procedure; the claims of justice and personal liberty must not be over- come by considerations of mere financial expediency.

Yours faithfully, DAVID MCNEILL, The Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar, 11 South Square, Gray's Inn, W.C1. November 18.

Mapping buried history

From Dr E. Macnamara

Sir, In the recent correspondence in your columns, my article "Mapping buried history" has been criticised by archaeologists and historians who have expressed their anxieties and criticisms concerning the proposal to redeploy the Archaeological Branch of the OS. In reply, the Director General has written: "The OS will, in future, obtain archaeological information from local professional sources" (*The Times*, November 11).

I read this phrase with amazement, since large areas of the United Kingdom are practically destitute of such sources! For example, the archaeologically rich Highland Region has no "local" university, nor, to my knowledge, is there a single field archaeologist employed at regional or district level, nor is there yet any permanent archaeological unit, however funded, at work in this area. Some counties do have inventories, compiled by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, but other counties have little hope of an inventory during this century; there is the *List of Ancient Monuments of Scotland* prepared by the Inspector of the Department of the Environ-

ment, but this is a short list of very outstanding monuments. Both the Royal Commission and the Inspectorate are national services, rightly based in Edinburgh. Where, then, in all this huge region, will the OS find "local professional sources" to supply archaeological information for future mapping and to maintain and enlarge the renowned card index of sites recorded down the years by the Archaeological Branch of the OS, which is now of fundamental importance to archaeologists, especially in areas where no up-to-date inventory exists?

Sir, there is a good case in economic terms, as well as for archaeological efficiency and public participation, to create more local archaeological posts, with the whole of the United Kingdom as a laboratory for the study of our "buried history" and wasteful of our archaeological resources to disband a specialized staff, able to record monuments in all areas. Rather, let the overlapping between the national archaeological services be minimized!

Yours sincerely, ELLEN MACNAMARA, Keeper's Cottage, Carron Bridge, Argyre, Ross-shire, November 16.

Projecting coloured births

From Mr Michael Reed

Sir, I have just received here as Vol. III of the late Mr Crossman's *Diaries* and copies of the transcript of Lord Kaldor's broadcast on October 23 and of his letter to yourself published on October 26.

I am glad to see that Mr Crossman's allegations against the projected coloured births in the United Kingdom have been authoritatively refuted. I have always known it to be beyond question. His references to me personally I had already heard of and decided, for reasons which I think will be obvious, to ignore.

In his broadcast Lord Kaldor said he thought the late Registrar General (myself) "thought he made his forecasts because he likes

to live in a country where there are a lot of blacks. That's why he went to South Africa or maybe that he really wanted was to make England more like South Africa and thought that was the best way to get that result."

An interesting light is thrown on these remarks by the statement in Lord Kaldor's own letter that he "did not know the late Registrar General or his staff and had no evidence of political or racial motivation on their part". If you are good enough to send me your letter, your readers will no doubt draw their own conclusions.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL REED, Welgemoed, Kew, Middlesex, November 14.

Releasing Rudolf Hess

From Mr Cyril D. Townsend, and others

Sir, A few days ago the Soviet Union once again turned down a request by the British Government for the release of Rudolf Hess from Spandau Prison. We are grateful to the British Government for raising this matter again on behalf of the British people, as we had asked.

It is part of our case to suggest that Hess was other than a dedicated Nazi Party leader. But we recall that Sir Winston Churchill wrote in the third volume of his history of the Second World War "It was a great mistake to be responsible for the way Hess has been and is being treated."

Hess has been in captivity since May 1941. Since 1966 he has been in solitary confinement in Spandau Prison with its 600 empty cells and armed military guards. In the past he has been treated for stomach ulcers. Now aged 83 he has a weak heart and his health is failing. In 1955 ex-Admiral Erich Raeder was released from Spandau, after having served nine years of the life term to which he was sentenced, on account of age and ill health. In 1957 Walter Funk was also released from Spandau on account of ill health.

Should Hess die in prison, as now appears almost certain, he could become the rallying point for extreme right wing elements in West Germany and elsewhere. (The three books of letters he has written to his wife have sold better

than any works on the German resistance to Hitler.) No useful purpose is served by his continued imprisonment. On the contrary there is staggering inconvenience and expense.

We wish to express our abhorrence at the petty, out dated, inexact regulations that are being applied at Spandau, and regret that the Government will not make available to Parliament the rules laid down by the four governors at Spandau covering the treatment of prisoners in their confinement. We have no doubt that it will be widely regarded as unacceptable that Hess is only allowed to see one member of his family for one hour each month.

As committee members of the All-Party Freedom for Rudolf Hess Campaign Group considered what the next time the United Kingdom is responsible for Spandau Prison, Hess should be removed to a secure ward of a hospital in West Berlin. We appreciate this would incur the displeasure of the Soviet Union but find the Soviet position inhospitable and no longer tolerable.

Yours faithfully, CYRIL D. TOWNSEND, Chairman, F. M. BENNETT, JOHN BATH AND WELLS, MOLLY CABORN, LLOYD OF KILGERAN, DAVID JAMES, GEORGE THOMPSON, JAMES DOUGLAS-HAMILTON, JEREMY THORPE, KEN WRECH, PHILIP WHITEHEAD, November 9.

Settling pay differentials

From Mr John Porter

Sir, Professor Elliott Jacques complains (November 11) of the lack of institutional response to his letter of October 27. Speaking for the Engineering Employers' Federation I can assure him that we are completely in agreement with his criticisms of productivity dealing and with his call for the establishment of genuinely collective bargaining.

We part company with him, however, on his proposed solution whereby the made unions should determine "the differential distribution as between its major negotiating groups of whatever overall percentage increase the economy will bear". Quite apart from the lack of realism in any proposal which assumes that the balance of power between employers and organized labour, so that free collective bargaining can once more operate in such a way that both sides feel the need to compromise in arriving at settlements.

What is needed is a swing in the balance of power between employers and organized labour, so that free collective bargaining can once more operate in such a way that both sides feel the need to compromise in arriving at settlements.

If this can be achieved, a pattern of differentials will emerge which more properly reflects true market pressures. This approach may not ensure absolute justice for all, but it is vastly preferable to differentialist patterns laid down from above by the TUC or anyone else.

Yours faithfully, JOHN PORTER, Director of Operations, Engineering Employers' Federation, Broadway House, 100 Pall Mall, Westminster, SW1. November 11.

From Professor Inis Macneil

Sir, Professor Jacques (November 11) and your other distinguished correspondents are undoubtedly right in emphasizing the need for an approach to differential equity among employees which they can accept and resist.

However, when we establish another institution we should have some care about its terms of reference. On several occasions during the past half dozen years I have investigated the possibilities of national job evaluation and attitudes to it. It founders for the

same reason that company and plant job evaluations require regular revision: the number of variable is immense and a totally job-based approach leaves a fundamental concern out of account.

Pay (for employees) is basic partly on the assumption of benefit and partly on the assumption of reward. The element of benefit increases the longer one's service (more through the agency of the state than the employer in this country) the extent of one's responsibilities as a whole.

The element of reward covers payment for current contribution. Here job evaluation makes sense in assessing the job and not the man or woman doing it. But in human terms, can we seriously claim that there is an objective "input" measure of the deserts of, for example, a man of 55 whose family have grown up and whose wife is ill and who is not as nimble as he was, but well respected and reliable; a woman of 32 whose children are at school and whose husband is working; and a bachelor of 26 with unusual skill and talent—all of whom could easily hold jobs with the same employer ranking for the same employer?

Yours faithfully, INIS MACNEIL, 11 Broadhurst, London, Surrey, November 11.

From Mr Rod Robertson

Sir, You report today (November 11) the findings of an ORC poll on unions and wage claims. Apparently 87 per cent of interviewees felt that the Government's "battle to beat inflation" should be supported. According to the Prime Minister, this result is "astounding and remarkable".

My natural scepticism of opinion polls leads me to wonder what the response would have been to the following question: "In the light of widely differing views as to the relative impact of pay increases on inflation, do you think that the country's economic problems can best be tackled by a series of managed and dangerous confrontations with key groups of workers?"

Yours faithfully, ROD ROBERTSON, Secretary, Southwark Trades Council, Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, SES, November 11.

The firemen's strike

From Mr Nicolas Bentley

Sir, Perhaps because I have myself been a fireman and can therefore speak from experience of the real dangers of fire-fighting, not to mention the physical and mental exhaustion that is often involved, I feel genuinely outraged by the Government's attitude towards the firemen's strike. It has called in to take the place of firemen. In their efforts to protect life and property these courageous but inexperienced young men are being deliberately misled, as is a matter of policy, by the Government's refusal to meet them the full use of the equipment and apparatus they need.

In the absence of any official statement to the contrary, and since no other credible explanation offers itself, it must be assumed that what inhibits the Government from doing its manifest duty is fear of trade union reaction. No doubt the Home Secretary will do his utmost to administer to the public the familiar bromide about the Government not wishing to exacerbate the situation by, etc. etc., a predictable form of evasive action by a cowardly and broken-backed administration.

Perhaps when the present emergency has resulted in a major tragedy, if not a serious disaster, as is increasingly likely the longer the emergency lasts, public opinion

will shame the Government into risking the hostility of the trade unions and giving the firefighting troops the facilities they need.

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS BENTLEY, The Old School, Downhead, near Shepton Mallet, Somerset, November 18.

From Mr Gershon Ellenbogen

Sir, Would it not be a proper solution of the firemen's dispute to recognize their pay claim as exceptional, in view of the hardship and dangers of their duty and its importance to the public weal, and at the same time to signalize the exception by making strike action on their part a criminal offence?

I am, etc. GERSHON ELLENBOGEN, 2 Gray's Inn Square, W.C1.

From Mrs Margaret Lipscomb

Sir, "Aug. 1st. 1762. Holton preached concerning Private Interest and Public Good in regard to our having an Water Engine to prevent fire spreading." I found this in *The Diary of a Country Parson*. Yours faithfully, MARGARET LIPSCOMB, Robin's Croft, Chilham, Kent, November 18.

Devolution for the English

From Mr Roland Freeman

Sir, Timothy Raison, MP, is right to draw attention to the way in which the Government has announced, by written answer last week, its response to the many submissions made by local and other authorities on the White Paper *Devolution: The English Dimension*. It simply will not do for Mr Michael Foot to dismiss the subject in this cavalier manner. At the very least a summary of all the evidence received by the Government should be published forthwith so that people can study and assess it for themselves.

The only evidence which convinced Ministers that devolution was desired by the Scottish and Welsh electorates was the unexpected success of the Scottish National Party and the risk of similar developments in Wales. Because in England, which accounts for four fifths of the Kingdom, we have no need of nationalist pretensions, it does not follow that we remain indifferent to the case for decentralizing the machinery of government. Those of us working in local government are well aware of growing

public demand for more democratic, less remote administration. Parliament would be unwise to think that several weeks can safely be allowed to elapse before the series of relatively small parts of our country, but not a single day to consider the same advantages for England.

Three straight questions should now be put to the English voter through a referendum:

1 Do you favour more local democratic control over public services, similar to the devolution proposed for Wales and Scotland, or

2 Would you prefer public services in England to be more centrally controlled?

3 Are you happy with the present arrangements for central and local government in England?

These are important matters and the English people have as much right to be consulted as the Welsh and the Scots, no country ignored as though we count for nothing in the calculations of the Westminster Parliament. Yours faithfully, ROLAND FREEMAN, Members' Lobby, The County Hall, SE1.

Questioning the preacher

From Mr F. T. Hare

Sir, The Church of England has since inception reserved the right of open debate in the pulpit on matters preached by its clergymen. Often the points made by a preacher provoke controversy, which in a more liberal secular gathering would demand comment from the listeners in the form of questions, comments, and in political circles, heckling.

In Archbishop Cranmer's time, the congregations were largely illiterate and uneducated, and remained so until the last 100 years of rapidly improving standards in these areas. Is it not time therefore, to allow the right of reply to sermons now that the clergyman is no longer the only educated person in the parish or cathedral?

Yours faithfully, F. T. HARE, 1 Goose Cote Hill, Egham, Surrey, November 15.

Marxism in education

From Professor Margaret Stacey

Sir, In my personal capacity as a professor of sociology I have read with interest the series of articles on Marxism in higher education. It is clearly important that we should understand what ideas and values are being disseminated in our universities and polytechnics. I wonder whether *The Times* proposes to run series on other topics which bear consideration. Two themes occur: "The conservative (small c) bias in higher education"; "The male domination of higher education"; "No doubt other readers will have other ideas, but these appeal to me as being equally serious and important topics as is the influence of Marxism if we wish to maintain or extend the values of liberal democracy and free enquiry."

Yours faithfully, MARGARET STACEY, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick, Coventry, Warwickshire, November 15.

Social Focus

How Scotland gathers experts to deal with housing problems

After this month the Scottish Housing Association celebrated its fortieth anniversary. During its existence the association has carried out a flexible policy adapted to meet Scotland's needs. Its role has evolved through that of providing employment for unskilled labour in the building of non-traditional houses to meet the war and post-war demand for housing, to one, over the past 20 years, of meeting the needs of overspill population in Glasgow and, more recently, those of industrial expansion throughout the country.

Now it has come almost full circle in that it is once again helping to supplement local authorities' housing stocks and, owner of 10 per cent of Scotland's public sector housing, it is justly proud of its technical design expertise and the activity of its housing management policies and practices.

Hand in hand with this development role has gone the development of streamlined techniques of design, including increasing use of the computer, together with the development of the "no-fines" concrete building method. The element of standardization thus introduced has enabled a maintenance and modernization system to be evolved which allows the concept of really long-life housing to become a reality and, with stock which will soon reach 10,000, this will become a valuable asset.

SSHA is already committed to many of the concepts contained in the recently published Government Green Paper on

housing and its housing management department, one of the most advanced in the country, has already started to investigate alternative forms of tenure to the conventional landlord-tenant one.

More than three quarters of SSHA's 87,000 houses fall into the "general needs" category and are allocated to applicants from the local authority waiting lists in whose areas they are. Many of these houses were built using a variety of non-traditional building methods and materials, such as steel sheeting, Scandinavian timber and framed concrete, and were erected by unskilled labour.

SSHA's terms of reference have been gradually extended through the introduction of the Glasgow overspill programme in 1957 and the economic expansion programme of houses for incoming workers in 1964. Economic expansion housing now accounts for about a fifth of the total SSHA stock. Especially since the onset of the oil boom in the early seventies, this category of housing has played a significant role in the economy of Scotland, representing as it does a cost-free addition to the housing supply in local authority areas where pressure has arisen or is likely to arise due to developing industrial activity. Incoming workers are housed, as far as possible, in the economic expansion housing, thus relieving the pressure on the local authority in question and leaving it free to house people from its regular list.

A slight variation on this pattern is exemplified by the development of economic ex-

pansion houses at Tweedbank in the Borders. Here, a programme of 800 houses is being built in an effort to attract industry and regenerate economic activity in an area which is generally considered to have run down over the past quarter of a century. These houses are being built on a superb site between Melrose and Galashiels and every effort is being made to create a completely new environment for incomers. Success was recognized by the granting of an award by the Saltire Society in 1976 for the first phase of 143 houses. The overall plan includes a shopping centre, leisure facilities and a school, which has already been built by SSHA. A housing pool is currently under construction under the direction of SSHA engineers, who are making use of the Government Job Creation programme to provide the necessary labour.

Provision of housing under the Glasgow overspill programme has also, of course, been concentrated on greenfield sites, mainly in the Glasgow and central belt area and the West of Scotland. The largest of these developments is the new community of Erskine, where 2,000 of an eventual 5,000 houses for this purpose have already been built. Again, part of this development has been recognized by a Saltire award, and a wide variety of architectural effects has been achieved as well as the creation of a singularly cohesive community.

This last aspect is entirely due to the forward-looking policies of the SSHA housing management department's local

office, which manages the houses and has built up a rapport with the community in all its aspects since the first houses were completed in 1971. Tenants, who come of course mainly from Glasgow, are made to feel welcome to Erskine as soon as they arrive and quickly become integrated into the lively community life there. It is perhaps significant that SSHA's first four houses for the disabled were built at Erskine in 1975. They form one side of a square in the North Barr area of the development.

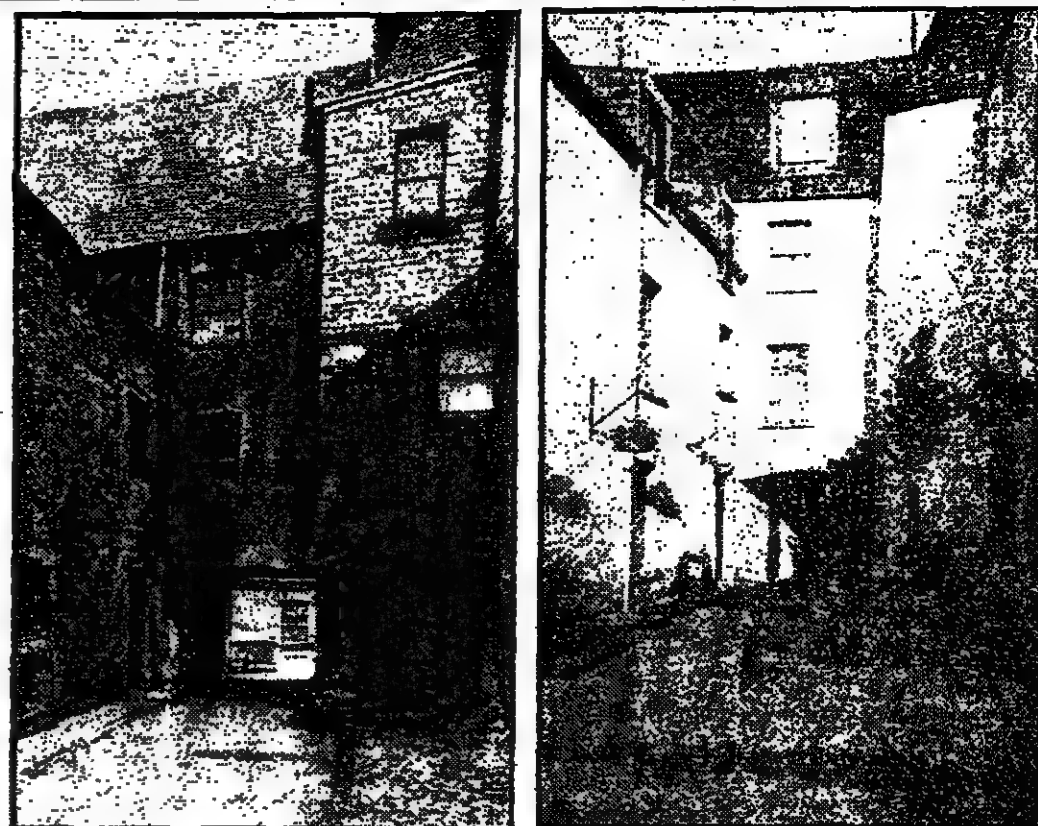
Development of a high standard of housing management practice has always been a prime aim of the SSHA, and it now employs the highest proportion of specially qualified staff of any housing authority in Scotland. The staff work from 18 area offices which are responsible for approximately 65 per cent of SSHA's total housing stock. In areas not covered by one of these offices, SSHA houses are managed by local district councils acting as agents.

A large proportion of more recent SSHA building, including most of the developments at Tweedbank and Erskine, has made use of a construction medium first used by SSHA before the war and developed over the past 25 years—"no-fines" concrete. Much of SSHA's building success has been due to the use of this quick, economical and versatile construction method, whereby quick-drying concrete, containing no fine aggregate or sand content, is poured into shuttering to the full height of the house.

Up to two house units can be poured at one time and the walls are ready to receive floors and roofs when the shuttering is removed the day after pouring. The method was developed by Ronald Macintosh, building manager from 1951 to 1974, and a booklet describing this development was published by the association in 1974.

SSHA prides itself on being able to provide speedy design solutions to general housing problems in a changing economy. A computer-aided system enables its architects to combine a vast range of standard components into an exciting range of varied house types which can be used to create layouts to meet virtually any site conditions with which they are presented throughout the country. The association's unique system of documentation allows contractors to build in the construction method of their choice. This ensures value for money while retaining the advantage of a rationalized technique to ensure ease of future maintenance and modernization. Over the years, the association has won five design awards from the Saltire Society and one from the Concrete Society.

The development of these design and construction systems has been a key factor in the speed with which SSHA has been able to adapt its role very recently from its previous long-term function of building in quantity for families on greenfield, mainly peripheral, sites. The need for this sort of building has to a large extent come to an end and energies which were previously channelled into the provision of housing for



Prince Charlie's House, Jedburgh—before and after conversion.

overspill and incoming workers is now being directed towards inner urban regeneration.

Instead of continued rehousing of Glasgow families outwith the city, an attempt is being made, under the new Glasgow Eastern Area Renewal (Gear) programme, to rehouse within the city, and this new policy is reflected in a smaller way in many other towns throughout the country. The houses built or rehabilitated in these inner areas come under a new programme, first announced in 1975—the Redevelopment Assistance Programme. The brief in each case is to be provided by the local authority, indicating the requirement for replacement of sub-standard housing and for rebuilding on central cleared sites. In all cases, this brief can include, as well as the traditional family accommodation, provision for single people, the elderly and the disabled—categories which have traditionally been short of accommodation.

To meet its commitment to the Gear programme, first announced in May 1976, the association set up its first regional office, in Renken House in the Anderson Cross Centre, Glasgow. The office opened in January this year and is staffed by a team of architects, surveyors, engineers, administrative and housing management personnel. The staff amounts to almost 50 in number and they were recruited mainly from existing resources in Renken House, Edinburgh. The regional office's primary objective is to deal with all new building, modernization and rehabilitation projects in Glasgow, with special emphasis on the eastern area project.

The purpose of the new office is to have on-the-spot activity, so that work on all the sites in question can be dealt with as speedily as possible and—just as important—so that the wishes and feelings of the local people involved can be considered and if possible implemented. As time goes on, a

housing management team to manage the new houses will be built up and will operate from an office in Parkhead, which will be central to the east and development SSHA's existing 10,000 houses in Glasgow will continue to be managed from a long-established office in Renken House. While design work has been underway, a series of participation meetings have been held with local inhabitants of each of the areas involved, to obtain their views at as early a stage as possible.

The policy of tenant participation does, in fact, run through the whole of SSHA's housing management activity, not least in areas where internal modernization of its older housing stock or environmental improvements to earlier schemes are to be carried out. Tenants are invited to a meeting chaired by one of the association's council members, at which their views on plans can be ascertained and the plans, where practicable, can then be altered before work starts.

It has become apparent over the past two or three years, that an increasing proportion of the association's future work will in fact be concerned with modernization, and in some cases complete rehabilitation, of its own older houses. Having been built using non-traditional methods, many of the older houses require extensive upgrading to ensure that they meet the requirements of the association's concept of the "100-year house". A planned maintenance cycle of five years, aided by the standardization of building components, is now operated on all its houses, but full internal modernization is considered necessary in all houses built more than 25 years ago. Older houses which are structurally sound are being modernized.

Work includes rewiring, renewal of kitchen and bathroom units, thermal insulation and any other process required to bring the houses up to modern standards. A programme of

environmental improvements is also being carried out on flatted areas, where communal ground has got out of hand. The work includes landscaping and, in some cases, fencing and rarmoring of drying areas to the rear of the flats. Any over-large gardens are normally divided up to be made into publicly maintained space.

One of the most interesting and spectacular modernization concerns is the solution found for SSHA's 3,000 houses built of steel frame, clad with steel panels—the Weir Quality steel houses. These houses had suffered extensive and progressive corrosion over the years and a fairly radical form of renovation was necessary. The method devised involves stabilizing the steel structure and surrounding the outer walls with an outer layer of thermal insulating blocks. New pivot windows are provided instead of the original steel-framed casement ones and, in the case of more than 2,000 of the houses which have flat roofs, these are replaced by pitched ones.

Internally, the houses are re-lined and rewired, the kitchens and bathrooms are newly fitted out, and central heating is installed. Since the houses were laid out on fairly generous lines when they were built, they are popular with tenants and in their new form rival a completely new house in amenity. Solutions to the problems created by other types of non-traditional house are currently on the drawing board.

The indications for the foreseeable future are that there will be an increasing amount of modernization work of all sorts, together with rehabilitation work and—very important—increasing concentration on renewal of inner town and city areas. Where required, of course, the association will also be on hand to provide speedy support for industrial expansion.

John Bodie

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An organization for counsellors to turn to when they need advice

The British Association for Counselling, which was inaugurated last Saturday, has sprung up in response to the concern of counsellors and counselling agencies. For six years a standing conference created by the National Council of Social Service and financed initially by the Gulbenkian Foundation has been finding out what takes place in the name of counselling and canvassing views about developments.

The response has been dramatic. Over a hundred and fifty organizations became members, ranging from the BMA, the Churches and the Law Society to small youth counselling agencies; from universities and polytechnics to many of the voluntary social services.

In addition to this impressive support of professions and agencies, the new association has now acquired charitable status and it already has 1,400 counsellors as members. Some are full-time counsellors in such settings as schools and universities. Some are professionals for whom counselling is one aspect of their work—careers officers, nurses, clergy, teachers and doctors. Many are voluntary counsellors in specialist and self-help agencies. They have joined BAC to improve their skill, to learn from each other and to express their sense of urgency that better, more comprehensive counselling services are required at many points of personal stress.

At present counselling provision is patchy. Counsellors are available in most institutions of tertiary education, sometimes employed by the college, sometimes by the students. Marriage guidance agencies provide a nationwide service with voluntary counsellors. Some health centres and doctors have counsellors, generally part-time, in their primary health care teams. Many education authorities appoint as school counsellors experienced teachers who have a diploma in counselling, though several authorities are still suspicious of a specialism which they fear undermines the pastoral role of teachers. Abortion counselling is being encouraged by the Department of Health and Social Security following the recommendations of the

Lane Committee. And services for widows, or young people, or homosexuals, or transvestites, or for all sorts of handicaps and for many other groups are available in various places and in varying degrees of competence. These services have much roomed in response to need in a genuine spontaneous way. The result is not only very uneven provision but also a rather chaotic one. There is no central control of selection or training, no external supervision of work, no generally accepted guidelines about responsible practice. There are dangers of services overlapping, of needless competition for scarce resources of skill and finance, and of over-enthusiastic ventures into work where good-will is not enough.

So the new association has a vital role to play in helping to stimulate where necessary, control where advisable and seek to encourage more orderly development. The main function in the early stages will be to give guidance and assistance in safeguarding standards by providing information on training, selection techniques, counselling methods and supervision of counsellors.

BAC has the dual aim of promoting intra-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary activities. Divisions are being formed in which members can pursue their specialist interests. At present there are eight embryonic divisions, in the following areas: pastoral care; medical settings; schools; tertiary education; work settings; young people; handicaps; and marriage, sex and family. More divisions will emerge as the association grows. Individual members may participate in as many divisions as they wish.

But in addition to work in the divisions, it is important for the association to enable counsellors to cross the boundaries of disciplines and professions. These boundaries seem primarily for the benefit of the helpers, not the helped. Of course, it is not easy to split the interests of the two. But the counsellor specialises because of his interest in, say, bereavement or marriage, or because of the structure of his school, university, parish or health service.

To the person seeking help the boundaries make little or

no sense. A redundant man seeks help over a new career, but may want from his adviser also renewed confidence in his role as husband and father. A parishioner with a crisis of faith may also present his priest with his problem of alcoholism, or crisis of sexual identity. A truanting adolescent may well be the overt sign to the school counsellor of his parents' marital conflict.

Most human problems do not fit into watertight compartments. But the cry for help has to be made to someone or to some agency. Most counselling agencies are not generic, nor I think should they be, but counsellors can take responsibility for broadening their field of understanding if opportunities are available. I work in a marital counselling agency where I have been trained to work with marriage, but I also have recent contacts with bereavement counsellors and community relations counsellors have alerted me to the significance of what my clients are saying about the death of parents or friends and have given me greater knowledge of the marital patterns of other cultures. In return marriage counsellors have valuable experience about the crucial importance of the marital relationship in convey to counselling in other settings.

The new association, through conferences, seminars, publications and a periodical will provide opportunities for counsellors to learn from each other. Looking ahead, there are important initiatives needed in training, supervision and other research. Basically the aim is to sharpen counsellors' perceptions, to make this area of man's humanity to man more sensitive and better informed.

The task is formidable. The numbers who have already joined BAC show there is an urgent need. The association has been set up almost entirely by the subscriptions of the members. One of BAC's first tasks will be to convince the Government that its support would enable these urgent issues to be tackled with greater speed.

Nicholas Tyndall

The author is chairman of the British Association for Counselling.



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LEBANON

In search of confidence after 'the events'

by Robert Fisk

There are two faces which stare down constantly at you from the walls of Beirut. Both are portrayed in colour on white-edged posters and both wear that serious, slightly studied look that statesmen feel they must adopt when wrestling with matters of great political moment. One of them is President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon, the banker whom the Syrians helped into democratic power last year before the civil war had ended. The other, a sterner, less compromising figure, is President Assad of Syria. As they mark the anniversary of their country's independence, the Lebanese may be forgiven for reflecting on the symbolism of the twin posters. The Syrians entered Lebanon last year to relieve military pressure on the Christians who were losing the war. Yet no one has yet decided who won the war or whether—if there were no victors—the country will be forever divided. Even President Sarkis's visit to Jerusalem will not cure these doubts.

There are those who are uncertain who controls Lebanon now, is it President Sarkis with his government

of technocrats and economists, his appeals for aid and his rejuvenated but largely impotent new army? Or is it President Assad whose 30,000 troops occupy all but the southernmost corner of the state and whose nation once gave its name not only to Syria but to Lebanon as well?

The Government of Mr Sarkis insists, bravely, that its country is once again an independent, united republic. President Assad says the same; and it may yet come to pass.

But, for the present, Lebanon is still politically and militarily a broken country. Its shattered capital is trying to regain its steady commercial heartbeat but Beirut has something in common with the capitals of Europe after the Second World War.

It is a place of terrible memories and ruins, of uncertainty and fears and rumours of conspiracy. Harry Lime would feel at home at Raouche in west Beirut where the funfane owners ruefully paint over the run on the big wheel.

At the city centre the Muslim taxi drivers will engage you with false laughter about the good time to come until they reach the old front line in Martyrs Square. Then they may tell you to continue your journey in a taxi

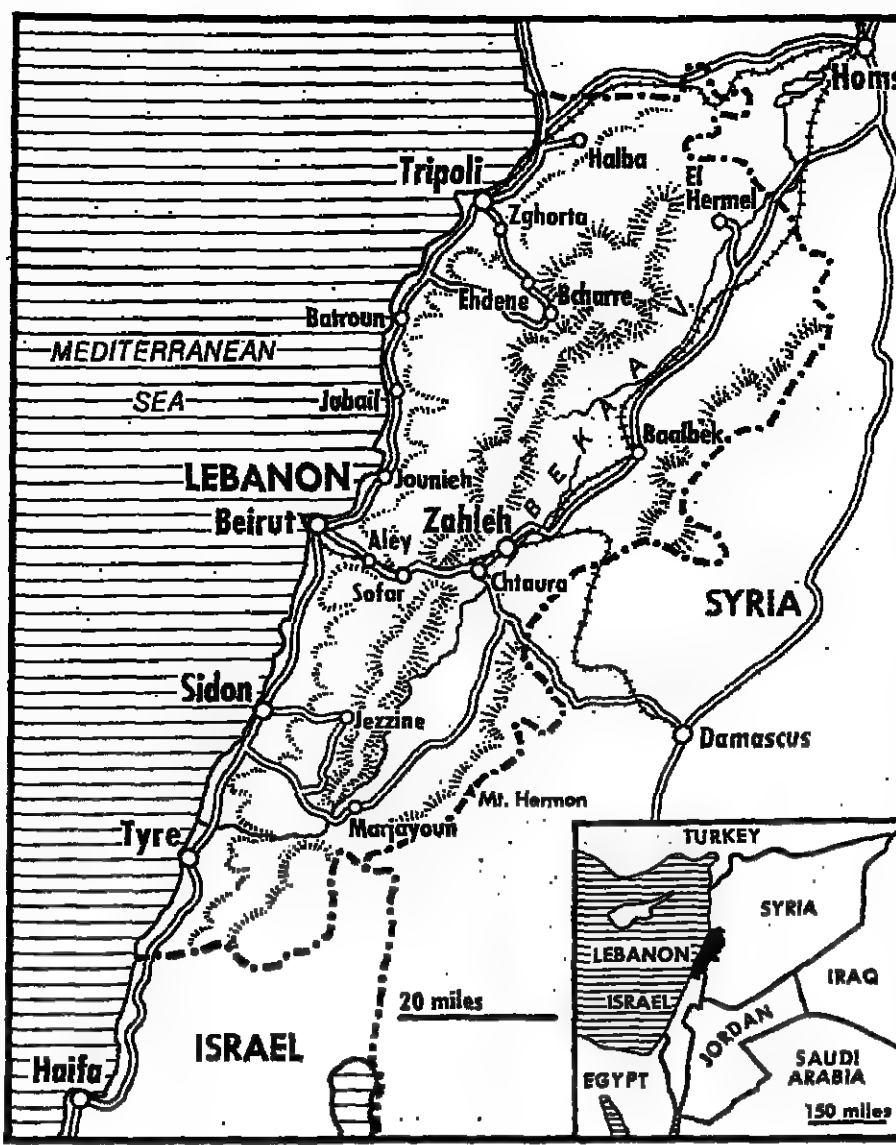
waiting on the other side of the boulevard. For, however great the expressed optimism, the year-old ruins still mark a political, sectarian path through the centre of Beirut and through Lebanon as well.

Across in the east of the city, Bashir Gemayel, the son of the old Phalangist leader who spoke for the Christians during the recent war, still turns up each morning at the French-built Ketchik barracks, and walks to his office past the armoured cars that once stormed Tel al-Zatar.

He is a handsome, thoughtful and not by any means an intransigent man. But it is his father, together with former President Camille Chamoun and his belligerent sons, who still control and nurse the pace of reconciliation.

Kamal Jumblatt, the wartime leftist leader, is dead, murdered. Walid Jumblatt, the dead chief's son, shy son of a mountain people but has no power now over the thousands of Palestinian fighters in Lebanon.

The Christians and Muslims who work in the Lebanese civil service would think it unfair to dwell too long on the sadness of recent history. "The events"—"al bawadees"—in Arabic—is the anodyne



phrase they use when they refer to the civil war which killed more than 37,000 people. They tell you that Lebanon is poor, weak and in need of succour but that it is courageous and rising from its knees. To be fair, there is some truth in what they say.

The Lebanese are an intelligent, courageous people and one can but wonder at their fortitude. Buildings amid the ruins of Beirut have been repaired already and ships now cluster around the great port once more. The neon lights flash in Hamra Street, the French fashions arrive in Beirut only two weeks late and the rich squander fortunes at the casino above Jounieh.

The restaurants have all reopened in the west of the city and if the Lebanese pound has fallen against sterling by almost 20 per cent in 12 months, at least the outward show of wealth is there. The first tourist bus—carrying Swedish holiday-makers—visited the destruction of Tel al-Zatar. But the great Baalbek temples are open again.

The Lebanese have been debating for months whether all this represents a false confidence in the future. A dreary round of real and threatened strikes has caught the Government just as it was renewing its appeals to the oil states for loans. When the Sarkis Cabinet was approving almost £30m worth of credit for the Reconstruction Bank, the Labour Confederation was pushing for a 45 per cent pay rise for all private sector workers.

Eight days later, the Government offered up to 35 per cent increases but the unions said they would regard this as only a first instalment. Now they threaten an all-out strike next spring. It may sound suicidal but on a human level it is understandable.

Not that the Lebanese can always discuss these issues in public. Since January this year the Government has instituted a fierce, quixotic and frequently infuriating censorship which leaves blank spaces on the front pages of the Beirut dailies and holes cut into the columns of the international press.

A government official wrote a fulsome letter to The Times correspondent a few weeks ago, praising an article in the paper but failing to mention that his own report out of every edition on sale in Beirut. Anything that might cast doubt on the Government's policy of reconstruction is taken out by the censors. The article which you are reading probably had less than a 50 per cent chance of passing their scrutiny unscathed.

Yet the press is still allowed to criticize the Government and the police state which less sanguine politicians predicted when the Syrians took over military control did not last for long, even in shadowy form. And, despite the occasional kidnappings and the terrifying revenge killings which still go on in the countryside, Beirut and Sidon and Tripoli are relatively safe cities. The Syrian army, although it has been contaminated by the

commercialism of Lebanon, has none the less behaved with restraint and has effectively stopped the Lebanese from killing one another. But President Assad's withdrawal his men tomorrow, the civil war would restart within the hour.

And this, in the end, is why Lebanon's future remains in doubt. There has been no reconciliation and no political settlement. Pierre Gemayel and Camille Chamoun and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, and the Jumblatt clique troop in tired succession to President Sarkis, each announcing their readiness to do all in their power to unite the country. Yet the "new Lebanon" still exists only in a parliamentary committee paper which talks easily about freedom and social justice.

And, while it has no substance, the Lebanese Government has no power. The oil states will not pay out the cash to rebuild Lebanon until they can be certain that the civil war has really ended. The Israeli influence in the south of the country and support the true, right wing Lebanese militia along the border, creating a powerful symbol of government weakness in Beirut and a permanent threat of invasion.

For if the Israelis ever did invade, the Syrians would stand between Tel Aviv and Beirut; which may be why the Lebanese respectfully do not ask whether the President of Syria should be the one to place with Mr Sarkis on the wall posters of Beirut. Perhaps they already know the answer.

History loses to strategy in south

Before the Israelis initiated their retaliatory raids into southern Lebanon in 1970, it used to be tourist country. The old guide books in Beirut still tell you how to reach the biblical ruins around Bennt Jball and the villages mentioned in the Book of Joshua.

In Tyre—where Christ once taught—you could dine at Pepe's Harbour Club and stroll across the quayside in the evening to look at the columns of Alexander's great city, still visible beneath the

water. Hachette's pocket guide devoted three pages to the magnificent Crusader ruins of Beaufort Castle, besieged by Saladin and once the retreat of the Kings of Jerusalem.

Only the Palestinian guerrillas, a few irate and lawless, a score or so of journalists—and the Israelis—would think of spending any time there now. Bennt Jball has come under daily shellfire from the Christian Lebanese villages along the Israeli border, while the

Christians' Israeli mentors use their long-range artillery to fire at the crossroads west of the little, deserted hamlet.

When the fighting was at its worst in September, shells hissed hourly over the Beaufort battlements. They killed few people but they smashed through two high walls of the castle and punched an enormous hole through the roof of the cavernous twelfth-century water cistern to the west of the keep.

Tyre is still under the control of the Palestinians and a collection of armed communist parties. There are even a few Iranian left-wing guerrillas undergoing military training with the Palestinians, unable to speak Arabic but—as one of them put it to me the other day—"understanding a common cause with our Palestinian brothers".

The participants in the desultory, but politically dangerous, fighting in the south have little idea of the area's historical significance

but they have not missed its strategic importance for the Palestinians. Southern Lebanon lies along the only border with Israel—or Palestine—where they can operate in comparative freedom.

Jordan and Syria are now closed to their commandos. For the Israelis, southern Lebanon contains the coveted sources of the Jordan river and the Litani flows 1,000ft beneath Beaufort Castle, where the Palestinians have their positions. A military thrust into the Arab world by Israel would almost certainly meet heavy resistance along the river.

The Christian Lebanese, anxious for international help in rebuilding their country, can point to the border to illustrate that their difficulty still exists and that their needs are still desperate. Only as long as they remain in the south of

Israel, only as Bennt Jball would walk up to the Israeli lines—should they dare to do so, Israeli fighter aircraft fly high over the border, turning southwards again only when they have cruised over the city of Tyre.

To outsiders, and to many Lebanese, the war in southern Lebanon has been a puzzling, pointless affair. A battlefield created for political, artificial reasons. To some degree they are right, for nearly every party in the Middle East conflict has an interest in the small Lebanese battles.

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The British Bank of the Middle East

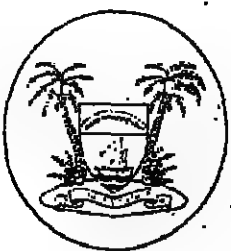
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by Denis Taylor

All discussions of confidence in Lebanon ultimately come back to security. The prospect of crisis has never been far away in modern times. As one Beirut economist put it: "In Lebanon one has lived with continual problems. This is the eighth crisis in a quarter of a century."

Such a statement, while valid, obscures the fact that the crisis generated by the civil war easily surpasses the rest in its acuteness.

A foreign observer said: "The threat of partition has hung over Lebanon since its creation. What is needed is relative security." This sounded a reasonable goal until he started analysing the elements in the mix—Syria, the moderate Palestinians, the Lebanese rejectionists, the Lebanese Muslims and the Maronites.

"The Christians imply that they will opt for partition if they don't get what they want," he said. Supposing affairs did not come to such a pass, tensions would remain. "The Maronites hate the Palestinians."

A foreign banker did not bother with words like relative security. "You will not get security in the country until there is a settlement," he said. "A lot of people who have interests here will not move back until they feel safe."

In their most polarized forms the arguments heard in Beirut are that there can be no real economic recovery without a political solution, and, conversely, that the Lebanese are so adaptable that they do not need a political solution to get back on their feet.

The Lebanese tend to make optimistic statements and foreigners to be more sceptical. But there are not two distinct camps.

An experienced foreign banker saw the present level of deposits as a sign of confidence. Other businessmen, Lebanese and expatriates, emphasized the lack of significant new investment.

Mr Fouad Abi Saleh, president of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists and also a banker, considered the possible internal and international difficulties and dangers facing the country and concluded: "I believe prosperity will come back to Lebanon unless we have an earthquake."

Mr Richard Gugen, general manager of The National Bank of Chicago (Lebanon) SAL, said: "There are not many attractive new lending opportunities in which we can put money and there won't be until the situation clarifies itself." He emphasized that he was thinking in the context not only of the internal political question but also of the regional question.

Cautious foreigners include the oil-rich Arabs who are hesitating to help rebuild Lebanon in the absence of clear progress towards a settlement. A familiar argument heard in Beirut is that the place could be helped if the Arabs weighed in with more money sooner rather than later.

Dr Selim al-Hoss, the Prime Minister, sounded an unusual note of self-orientation in an interview with The Times. While regretting that aid had not been forthcoming faster, he added: "To some extent the blame is on us. We are responsible for the delay in that in discussing reconstruction there are four different areas." He listed these as social, basic services and utilities, the private sector and security.

The Prime Minister said the total cost of rehabilitating housing, for which some aid from the oil states had already been allocated, might exceed £1,000m.

On the practical level the Lebanese have coped surprisingly well both during

and since the war. Their resourcefulness is unquestionable, and conflict in southern Lebanon does not stop banking business in Beirut.

But there is an important distinction between being able to manage affairs on a day-to-day basis and being able to give a categorical assurance that Beirut has a significant future as a Middle East financial and business centre.

An essential condition is that Lebanon remains a single country. A partitioned state could not fulfil the role of financing post for the Arab world.

No single candidate appeared during the war to replace Beirut. Athens is not the place to gather intelligence on political and financial developments in the Arabic-speaking nations. Cairo, while the Arabs' intellectual centre of gravity, suffers from general inefficiency, particularly in telecommunications, and is not the best place for getting rapid information about the fastest growing region, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

Banking free zone regulations

Bahrain has made strides as an offshore banking centre, and the Lebanese may have missed the tide with their banking free zone regulations, which were not brought in until this year.

Beirut bankers emphasize the high temperatures of the Gulf and the general lack of facilities compared with Lebanon. Beirut produces the best educated staff in the Middle East, competent at working in English and French as well as Arabic. "We don't need to import secretaries or accountants," one banker said.

Telecommunications are not yet back to the standards which existed before the war, when the telephone system was already overloaded. The telephone ser-

vice is inferior to those of the Gulf, but vastly superior to that in Cairo. Telex services are not as reliable as they should be.

The Lebanese pride themselves on offering a policy of neutrality between the Arab world and the West. The westerner has to make far fewer psychological adjustments in Beirut than in any other Arab capital. Traditionally dressed Gulf women look almost as out of place in Beirut as they do in London.

Drinking alcohol does not present problems. Lebanon has fine restaurants and standards of cleanliness in ordinary eating places are much higher than in usual in the Middle East.

New western films are shown in Beirut cinemas in any other wide range of imported books in the shops. Good schools and medical facilities are available. The Mediterranean climate is pleasant throughout the year, and skiing is an added bonus in winter.

Beirut has the best air connections of any city in the region to other Middle East centres. Businessmen can travel with ease to Jeddah, Kuwait, Bahrain and Paris. It is often simpler to fly back to Beirut and out again than to try to travel between Arab towns which are close together but lack adequate connections.

Like the Swiss, the Lebanese have a system of secret, numbered accounts. All these things used to make Beirut a pleasant haven for living and doing business. Some facilities have certainly deteriorated as a consequence of the war. Apart from telecommunications, censorship has reduced the value of the Lebanese press as a source of information. At the same time it is a good place for learning of useful developments in the region by word of mouth.

Beirut bankers deny that their city had greatly profited from an inflow of oil funds. Total prewar deposits in Beirut were put at less than \$4,000m.

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Dr Nauman Azhari, vice president of the Lebanese Bankers' Association, estimated that 50 per cent of bank deposits were held by resident Lebanese, and the rest by overseas Lebanese. Syrians, whose deposits had become very important during the past decade, and Gulf Arabs.

On this interpretation, the crucial event leading to the flow of Arab money to Beirut was the quadrupling of oil prices rather than the subsequent civil war in Lebanon.

The sheer volume of funds released was bound to affect Beirut's significance as an intermediary between the Gulf and the West.

The new wealth would reinforce the oil Arabs' confidence in dealing directly with Western business in Beirut, and stimulate more financial activities within their home countries.

Beirut's emphasis on the importance of making other Arabs feel at home by being able to transact business in Arabic would begin to look less of a practical necessity.

Given the dramatic rise in funds generated in the Middle East during the past four years, the question to be answered now is not whether Beirut can recover a unique status created being eroded before the civil war but whether it can hold on to even a small portion of the new wealth. If so, the Lebanese will still be a very special place.

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A Western economic observer summed up his feelings in these words: "Beirut may not be indispensable, but it is desirable."

R. F.

Future as financial centre hangs on unity

by Denis Taylor

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R. F.

Beirut revives but sense of division lingers

At first sight Beirut seems unscathed by war. You have to go to the city centre and explore slowly, preferably on foot, to take in the appalling damage which stretches not only to the port but cuts a continuous swathe of destruction across the country.

The obvious place to start is the hotels district by the sea front, dominated by the battle blackened multi-storey Holiday Inn.

Facing this stands the battered bulk of what was Beirut's best known hotel, the St Georges, its entrance now bricked up into anonymity. The poolside bar tucked under the side of the St Georges offers an illusion of normality. Here well dressed Lebanese still greet each other with Gallic manners, slipping from French into Arabic and back again.

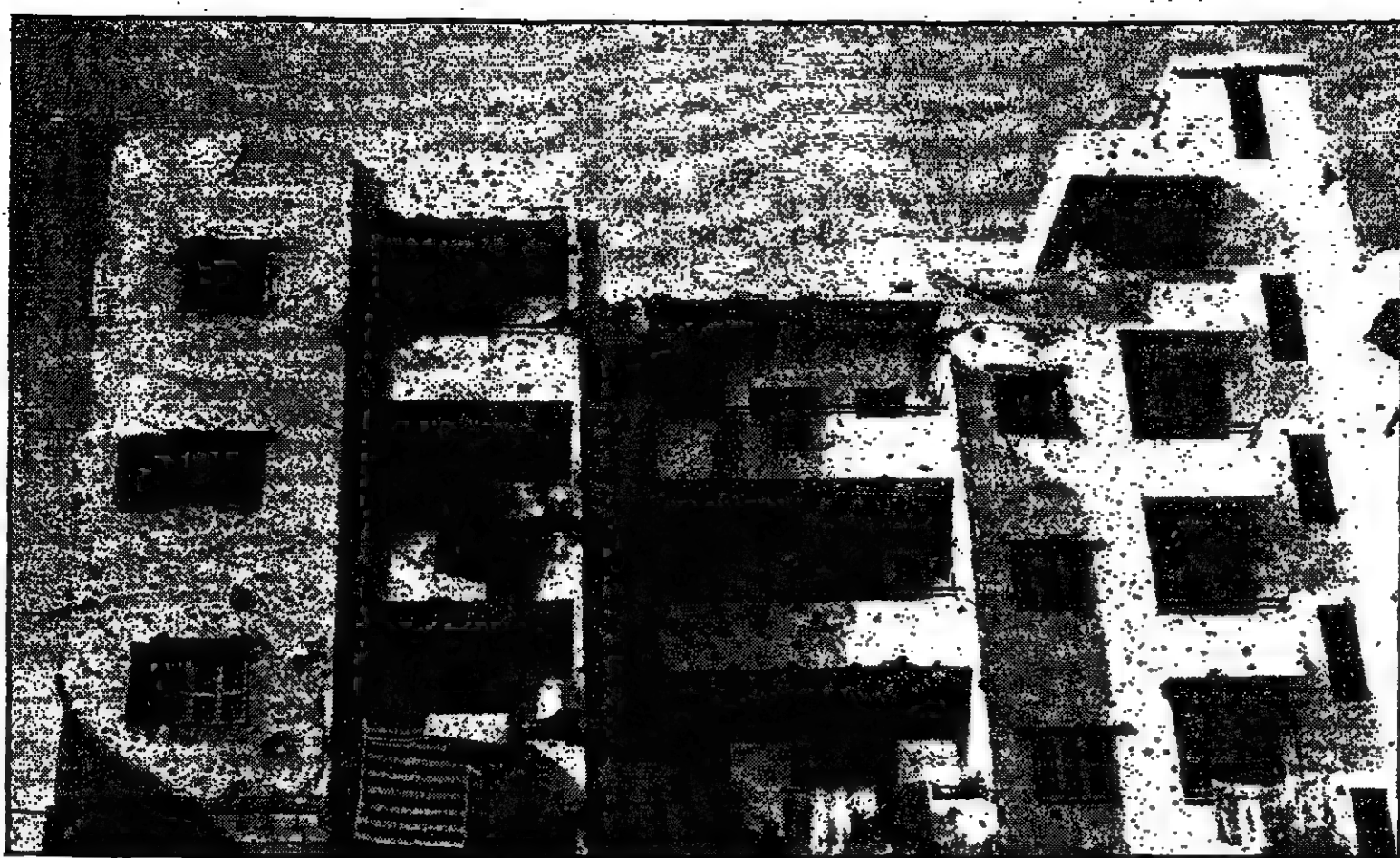
Sitting in the shade and looking out over the Mediterranean it is tempting to forget the ruined hotels and the troops of the Arab peace-keeping forces manning the checkpoint only 100 yards away.

Eastward along the coast the scene quickly deteriorates. The St Georges, where prostitutes used to entice foreign visitors, is largely gutted. Astonishingly, some of the bars which escaped destruction are still open.

From there the streetscape is one of buildings with their innards ripped out by rocket fire, shattered neon signs, lamps leaning from walls at incredible angles, and twisted, rusty metal. Cars pass through the district, but for several hundred yards there is no other sign of human activity.

Near the Place des Martyrs, named after Lebanese victims of Ottoman rule but an appropriate name for today, are the first tentative signs of people getting back to business. A few ground-floor premises are being restored in otherwise deserted streets.

The silence is suddenly broken by sounds from the front and rear of the car in streets running off the square. The Place des Martyrs, where the Phalangist militia launched a key offensive during the war, is slowly getting back to its normalcy. Armed Syrian soldiers are among the most conspicuous



A block of flats in the badly damaged Beirut suburb of Shiyah, through which the front line ran during the civil war.

buyers from stalls set up in the square. Continue on to the Rue de Syrie, and the feeling of being in an ordinary Middle Eastern city grows. Shoeblacks squat along the crowded, colonnaded pavement, in front of the bookshops and stationers.

Heading east, you notice the churches. One, with the Phalangist "Défense d'efficher" prominently displayed on its walls, had been desecrated not by bullets but by fire. Its people were shattered and its cross least at an eccentric angle.

The most evident reconstruction and repair in the Beirut area is to some of the factories in the industrial zone near the site of the former Palestinian refugee camp at Tel al-Zatar.

Tel al-Zatar is perhaps

the saddest scene in and around the Lebanese capital. To say this is not to take sides with the Palestinians. Each faction in the conflict was guilty of atrocities.

The devastation at Tel al-Zatar has not obliterated all evidence that people lived there before being killed or dispersed by the besieging Phalangist forces, whose strategy demanded the elimination of this enclave. The camp was surrounded for seven months before it fell in August last year.

This war was about far more than religious differences, but easily applied labels became matters of life and death, and many Muslims and Christians were driven to seek refuge in areas where they could feel safe.

Many Muslims are still

nervous about crossing from west Beirut to the Christian suburb of Ashrafieh. Some middle-class people pour scorn on the idea that they should not move freely anywhere in the city.

Nevertheless, checkpoints manned by Syrian or Saudi troops at road tunnel exits and entrances serve as a reminder that this remains a city of distinct and potentially hostile sectors.

The sense of separation is marked if you take the road through east Beirut to the Phalangist stronghold of Jounieh. Huge portraits of Mr Pierre Gemayel, the Kataeb leader—here displayed above a tunnel exit, there outlined on top of a high building—convey the impression that he is the most important man in Lebanon. A roadside picture

of President Sarkis is not large enough to counter this message.

New blocks of flats, shops and restaurants serve as a reminder of Muslims' resentment that their Christian fellow countrymen have enjoyed the lion's share of national wealth.

To return to the traditionally mixed area of Ras Beirut is to feel a more relaxed atmosphere. The Hamra district has the well-stocked clothes boutiques, shoe and book shops, exquisitely displayed chocolate and flowers, and rare furniture familiar to visitors before the "events". The occasional armed Syrian or Sudanese soldiers and public photographs of President Assad are found there, but they are not too obtrusive.

Another familiar feature is the rubbish in the streets. In October a strike of rubbish collectors was blamed on outsiders who had lived in their country for nearly 30 years, and ignored the tensions existing among the Lebanese themselves.

These were not purely confessional, but the most deprived people were Muslims, and the Christians held a disproportionate amount of wealth and political power.

This conclusion is not open to statistical proof. The last census was held in 1932, but for years there has been an exodus of Christians from Beirut. The larger community and that they have been politically under-represented.

Not only did political, social and economic grievances become polarized on a confessional line, important differences emerged over the

identity of Lebanon. Was it a unique, Maronite-dominated state or was it part of a wider Arab world?

Dr. Selim al-Hoss, the Prime Minister, told *The Times* in Beirut recently that a "disengagement" between the Lebanese and the Middle East problems for which he has been calling was "both possible and necessary".

This approach was necessary because a final settlement in the Middle East would have to come about through a reconvened Geneva conference. He showed that he had no illusions about such a conference achieving quick results. He said that it might take years to reach a regional settlement and added: "I don't think Lebanon can remain in tension."

Dr. al-Hoss foresaw the possibility of a solution within Lebanon through a political entente between the Lebanese, accompanied by agreement between the Government and the Palestine Liberation Organization. He hoped the Chataura accord, which provides for the replacement of the Palestinians in the south by the reformed Lebanese Army, would be implemented.

The Prime Minister's arguments draw attention to an aspect of the crisis in Lebanon which is often glossed over. The war was not solely the result of tensions between the Christian Maronites and the Palestinians. To depict it as such is to simplify the issue as one of native Lebanese against outsiders, admittedly outsiders who had lived in their country for nearly 30 years, and ignore the tensions existing among the Lebanese themselves.

But prewar Beirut was an ill-kept city in a spectacularly beautiful setting. The Lebanese capital had a veneer of high living and the sort of disparities between rich and poor which helped to ignite the country. In spite of rigorous censorship it is still the Arab city where views may be exchanged more freely than anywhere, and the one where for the time being at least, westerners feel most at home.

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Uncertainty looms over return of banks

by Faris Giubb

Just over a year has passed since the Lebanese war ended officially with the Riyadh Arab summit agreement—a year which apart from occasional incidents has witnessed a slow and gradual return to normality. Like most other sectors of the economy, Lebanon's banking is in the process of recovering from 19 months of fierce fighting, but the day of full recovery is still some way off.

The war brought upheavals to the banking sector, particularly because the head offices of almost all Lebanon's banks were concentrated in the city centre on the dividing line between the two opposing sides. Some of the fiercest battles of the war were fought out in this area. Thanks to the sturdiness of the massive stone buildings in Riad Solh Street, the "street of the banks", most were able to resume operations from their head offices last January, after being closed for several months.

During the war, a number of banks opened new head offices or branches in fairly safe areas away from the battle lines. The division of the country into two sectors resulted in several banks establishing a new branch on each side of the dividing line: in east Beirut or Jounieh to serve clients in the Conservative-held sector, and in west Beirut for clients on the other side. Now that these branches have opened, they are expected to remain in operation. One hundred and ten new branches were set up in the war.

Bankers in Beirut, both

Lebanese and foreign, showed versatility in coping with the crisis. Many of them were forced, at least until they could find new premises, to resort to "banking from the dining room table", conducting essential business from their own homes. A number of Lebanese banks opened branches or representative offices in other Middle East countries or Europe.

Paris appears to have been the most popular location. Seven Beirut-based banks opened branches or representative offices there: Banque Libano-Française, the European Bank for the Middle East, the Mediterranean Bank, the Arab Mashrek Bank (Overseas), Banque Truquart-Lyonnais, Crédit Populaire and the Arab Finance Corporation. France's policy was to encourage these "emigrant banks" which enjoyed considerable success. Their combined operations covered more than 60 countries. Other Lebanese banks opened offices in London, Zurich and cities closer to home, such as Nicosia.

The Lebanese Bankers' Association knew a total of 77 banks operating in Lebanon before the war. Of these 34 were Lebanese-owned, four were specialized medium and long-term banks, 22 were registered in Lebanon, five were non-Lebanese Arab institutions and 12 were branches or regional head offices of foreign banks. In addition, there were 65 representative offices.

It is still not clear how many of the foreign regional head offices and representative offices intend to resume full operations. Some are already beginning to do so. The British Bank of the Middle East, although its Beirut head office was severely damaged and looted, is determined to stay on, but not in its former premises in the city centre. Before the war it was the third largest operating bank in Lebanon.

Most forgotten banks have been studying the possibility of resuming their normal activity in Lebanon, but many are still adopting a wait-and-see attitude. Certainly, no other city in the Middle East has yet emerged to rival prewar Beirut in terms of geographical position and facilities such as local financial skill, efficient communications, comfort, recreation and education of expatriates. But the big question is how soon Lebanon can return to normality and lasting stability.

"Most foreign banks would far sooner operate from Beirut than, say, Athens, Cairo, Amman or even Bahrain", one American banker told me. "And there is no denying that the situation here has been gradually improving and business opportunities are opening up again. But most people do not feel it is safe to bring their families here yet, and so they prefer to stay on in Athens or somewhere for the moment. Once it becomes safe for their families to come, foreign bankers will return here in large numbers."

Fear of financial loss, this banker emphasized, is not a main factor with most banks. Indeed, many banks made substantial profits even at the height of the war, particularly if they had branches in the Conservative-held area. This was not only because that area possessed greater wealth to start with than the Progressive-held area, but also because of the boom of import operations in Jounieh Port, which many banks financed.

Some local banks made even greater profits by financing imports to "pirate" or illegal ports. One Western bank estimated that 80 per cent of its profits in the war came from operations on the Conservative side.

Some banks also profited by handling the flight of capital that took place at certain stages of the war. The bulk of this capital seems to have returned last summer, together with most of the Lebanese who had taken refuge abroad. Total deposits in Lebanon's banks, about \$1.1 billion (£2,000m) before the war, dropped as low as \$1.5 billion, but have now risen again to about \$1.8 billion.

In fact, the Lebanese banking sector now has excess liquidity. The former president of the Lebanese Bankers' Association, Mr Joseph Geagea, estimates the surplus liquidity of the commercial banks at \$1.1 billion, in addition to a further \$1.6 billion reserves at the Central Bank. The Prime Minister, Dr Selim al-Hoss (who, like President Sarkis, was a

banker before holding government office), has urged the banks to use this surplus to finance private reconstruction. Some banks have provided finance for reconstruction projects.

So far, however, the banks have generally been cautious on reconstruction financing, preferring to advance credit mainly for import operations rather than construction projects. The Government has tried to mop up some of this excess liquidity by issuing government bonds, which will help to finance this year's \$1.3 billion budget deficit. But bankers preferred to buy only those bonds with short maturities of one or two years. The three-year maturity bonds were thus omitted from the second issue.

The Government has endeavoured to stimulate the banking sector by a number of measures. New specialist banks for housing and agriculture have been set up, with 50 per cent of their capital provided by the public sector. Each bank has capital of \$1.5 billion. A banking free zone has been set up, with interest on non-residents' deposits exempt from income tax—an idea first advocated by Dr al-Hoss some years ago.

In addition, a moratorium on the establishment of new banks (imposed after the 1966 Intra Bank crash) has been lifted. Recent legislation gives the Central Bank complete discretion in the granting of new bank licences. New banks are required to have \$1.5 billion minimum capital (compared with \$1.5 billion before) of which \$1.5 billion must be deposited interest-free with the treasury (or \$1.5 billion if the bank is a branch of a foreign one).

The Government's aim has been to create the legislative framework necessary for reinvigoration of the banking sector so that it can play its role in postwar reconstruction. The banks' response to this task has been slow, as have other aspects of Lebanon's recovery.

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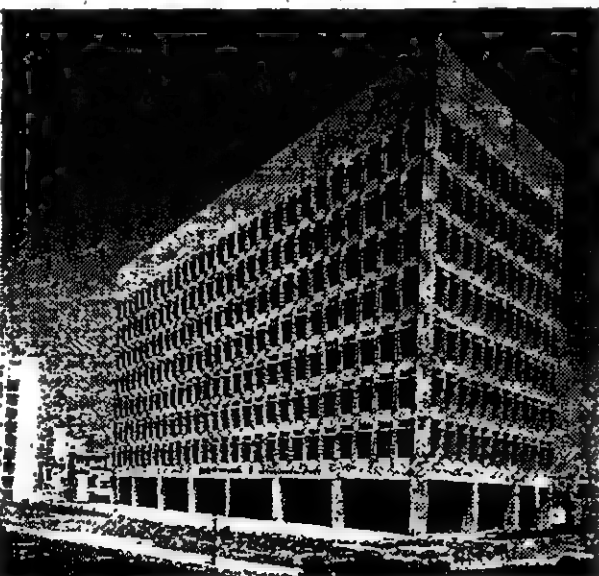
administrators and other professionals who provide the pool of specialists on whom foreign business based in Lebanon has traditionally relied. Where but in Beirut can the expatriate businessman expect his secretary to be fluent in the three commercial languages of the Middle East, in addition to possessing the full complement of office skills?

Businessmen headquartered in Beirut or passing through before the war enjoyed this and other amenities which made it the businessman's capital of the Middle East. Most of these amenities either survived or have been resuscitated. Foremost among them was the free-enterprising spirit that has always characterized a nation which, bereft of raw materials and agricultural riches, for thousands of years has thrived on a fine-tuned instinct for individual initiative, innovation, small profits from high turnover, and the capacity to render a full range of services.



Money in the Bank

A measure of Lebanon's speedy return to business-as-usual is the presence in Beirut today of 80 banks (pre-war total: 73) among which are 40 international bank representative offices. Strict banking laws guarantee deposits up to L.L. 30,000 and require that banks maintain large cash reserves. Traditional banking secrecy is rigidly enforced, as well as Lebanon's absolute freedom of exchange and lack of currency restrictions of any kind, including the import and export of bullion. Since the war, two new laws, the Foreign Investment Guarantee law and the Free-Zone Banking law, were enacted to provide further facilities for international banking and business transactions. The solidity and stability of the Lebanese pound reflects the fundamental soundness of the banking system and the Lebanese economy in general: despite a temporary dip in value of the pound during the fighting, it has, for the past decade, remained almost constant relative to the dollar, and its backing is considerably better—more than 100 percent coverage in gold and hard currencies.



Bed and Board

Whether he's carrying sterling, francs or marks, the traveler to the Middle East these days gets more for his money in Beirut than in other countries of the Middle East. Even with the destruction of 4 major hotels, there are more than 2,000 rooms of first and de-luxe classes in Beirut alone. The rates are one-half to one-third those of similar accommodations in the area, the service more efficient and the amenities superior. The same is true of family accommodations for businessmen headquartered in Beirut. Fifteen hotels offer convention and conference facilities.

The cosmopolitan composition of Beirut's population—among which people of all races, religions and nations are welcome—has spawned a gastronomic paradise of specialty restaurants, many of them clustered in or near the hotels. The Lebanese cuisine is renowned as one of the best and most diversified in the world. There are also Chinese, French, Austrian, Japanese, German, Rumanian, Spanish, Armenian, Indian, Pakistani, Italian and Swiss restaurants. Beirut boasts no strictly British restaurants, although the deficiency is more than supplied—with the best of spirits—at typical English pubs, some lovingly pieced together from imported originals.



Alexander, Caesar and Others

Lebanon has, of course, its own originals, and their profusion in small compass is one of the main attractions of this tiny country, and one which the transient war fortunately left untouched. Baalbek, the largest and most magnificent survival of the Roman Empire, lies just beyond the mountains which shield Beirut on the east. Phoenician Sidon and Tyre to the south of the capital, Tripoli—one of the Crusader strongholds—to the north, are all within 90 minutes by car. These relics of the past have made Lebanon a favorite hunting ground for those who find romance in their own heritage. For the heritage of the West is found, in truth, to a remarkable degree in this land. In the north, above Tripoli, still tower the Cedars of Lebanon from whose groves were hewn timbers of the long ships of the pharaohs, and the temple of Solomon. In later ages, the lush coastline echoed to the tread of the armies of Alexander, Caesar, Richard the Lionhearted and Saladin, and at the Dog River, just outside ancient Beirut, conquerors and kings spanning three thousand years carved their memorials in solid rock, where they can still be seen today, legends in stone which encapsulate so much of Western history and tradition.

Lebanon's legends soar beyond its mountains of stone, and the men who chiseled their testimonials upon them, to the far reaches of classical mythology. According to the Phoenicians, Adonis was a handsome youth beloved of Aphrodite who died of a wound received from a boar during the chase. The anemone flower sprang from his blood and the Phoenicians believed that its appearance each spring symbolized the renewal of life, after the cruel winter which represented the death of Adonis.

For the Lebanese today, the anemones are in bloom.

And in the words of the Lebanese poet and philosopher, Gibran Khalil Gibran: "Spring is beautiful everywhere, but it is most beautiful in Lebanon..."





A country picks itself up in the ruinous aftermath of civil war. Above: students at the American University of Beirut, which, although coming under fire, managed to remain open almost without interruption. Left: Syrian soldiers shopping in the Place des Martyrs. Top left: ruined buildings in Bab Edris in the traditional commercial centre of Beirut.

War sentences last free Arab press to death

by Atef Sultan

Twenty months of bloody and sectarian civil war have devastated Lebanon's economy, society and politics. But to most Lebanese and other Arabs and indeed to many foreign reporters to whom Beirut was a blessing for its freedom, the war has led to what is in effect the death of the last and only relatively free Arab press.

London has always been envious for its 11 morning and evening dailies catering for a variety of political views, education and interests. In Beirut, a city of fewer

than one million people and a capital of only three million, no less than 40 newspapers in Arabic, English, French and other languages appear every day. Total circulation never exceeded more than 200,000 copies but nevertheless the Lebanese press has been rivalled only by the highly professional Egyptian press, which is more widely read though subject to state ownership and at times to vigorous censorship.

During the turbulent civil war, the Lebanese press found itself caught up in the turmoil of a rapidly changing

political and economic situation.

Peace was restored in December 1976 only after the 35,000-strong Arab peace-keeping forces (mainly Syrian) had marched into Beirut. Soon after Syria had established a strong foot in Lebanon, censorship on all publications was enforced. In a still divided city, two censorship offices were set up in Beirut, one in the rightist-controlled east and the other in the leftist-dominated west. Foreign correspondents were to submit their dispatches for approval before sending them and offenders were to be fined

up to \$5,000 or imprisoned for up to three years.

Exactly what the censor considers "offensive material" was never made clear officially but the Director of Public Security was given the power to ban whatever he wanted. Topics considered likely to arouse religious sensitivities or calling for Lebanon's partition and those seen as damaging to security, economy or foreign relations topped the censor's list. Blank spaces frequently appear in many of the Beirut dailies.

Even before censorship was introduced, six of the city's dailies and a weekly magazine were taken over for two weeks by the peace-keeping force.

They included the country's leading and perhaps most liberal daily *Al-Nahar*, whose publisher, Mr. Gassan Twini, was sent to New York in September this year to become Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations.

With the relative improvement in security, censorship began to ease. Only four weeks after its introduction, the Syrians felt strong enough to lift some of the restrictions imposed on January 3. Foreign correspondents for instance, were now required to submit a copy of their reports after sending them and were further exempted from a censor's fee of about \$3.30 a page of copy. Correspondents were, however, asked to maintain "restraint" and "to bear in mind Lebanon's situation".

The censorship essentially amounted to a ban on news about the continuing fighting in the south, the only part which remains largely out of Syrian control, and on opposing Palestinian activists, particularly Mr. Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman who fell out of favour in Damascus soon after Syrian troops controlled Beirut. Further consolidation in Syria's strength in Lebanon and its subsequent greater accommodation with other Arab regimes have led to further relaxation of censorship.

News and pictures of Mr. Arafat are frequently found on the front pages. The Syrians became more concerned with editorials rather than straight news. Remarkably, at the height of the civil war and with

the serious shortage in newspapers, many leading Beirut dailies such as *Al-Nahar*, *Al-Safir*, *Al-Ahram* and *Al-Anwar* were printed every single day, although journalistic quality and distribution naturally suffered.

The daily Phalangist newspaper, *Al-Ammal*, capitalising on the thirst for news during the war, prospered in east Beirut as people were risking their lives to buy a newspaper. *Al-Nahar* and *Al-Safir*, located in the relatively more peaceful Al-Hamra district, were among the best in reporting the daily developments of the civil war and even Arab and international news.

One leading daily, the English language *Daily Star*, housed in the badly hit commercial district, was less fortunate, its offices were destroyed and it has since disappeared.

Mr. Edouard Sassi, *Al-Nahar*'s quality French language *L'Orion-Le Jour* editor, was one of the early victims of the war. The press clampdown has not stopped at advance censorship. Since last July, a tougher penalty for reporters and editors who publish "false or inaccurate" information was introduced, and the press laws were amended so that newspapers were required to submit their accounts twice a year for official scrutiny. Publications seen as being subsidized by foreign states or political parties were to be suspended or closed.

Many of Beirut's dailies have been supported by Arab regimes who were ready to finance them to propagate their views. The offices of the Iraqi-backed daily, *Al-Mohawir*, for example, were attacked by pro-Syrian Palestinian guerrillas only a few days after Syrian troops Beirut that, acting up a

newspaper was no more difficult than buying a house.

Lebanon was, and still is, the only Arab country in which the mainstream press is privately owned. But the proliferation of newspapers in the city has been controlled by a 1955 law which forbade the issue of new press licences. Some owners of publications which disappeared during the civil war still find a lucrative market in selling their licences.

The only English language daily now published in Beirut, *the* *Star*, has this curious name because it bought a licence from a former Armenian language daily, *Ayk*, which was founded in 1953. Three years ago, a newspaper licence would have fetched about \$25,000. If one was now on the market, it would cost considerably more.

The precarious existence of many Beirut newspapers is likely to be strengthened by regrouping them into fewer publishing houses to increase economic viability and perhaps improve the press.

The Government is thinking in those terms and that would also apply to the television services. A similar

television company, in which the Government would be a shareholder, has been proposed. The company would take over the privately run *Compagnie Libanaise de Television et Télé-Orientation* in which the Thomson Organization had a stake.

A few years ago, censorship would have been imposed only temporarily or when a state of emergency or martial law was announced. But now the uniqueness of the Lebanese press is almost over, many editors have taken their newspapers and magazines to distant capitals such as Paris and London.

In addition to *Al-Watan al-Arabi*, Paris now has the weekly, *Al-Mustaqbal*, and the prestige weekly, *Al-Nahar al-Arabi* in Arabic. Often described as an Arabic version of the *International Herald Tribune*, *Al-Hawadess* set up the English language fortnightly, *Events*, in London where the former Iraqi Beirut weekly, *Al-Dustour*, has recently moved from temporary publication in Paris.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.



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Electronics will help to regain place in sun

by John Rizq

The importance being given to telecommunications in Lebanon's reconstruction drive was illustrated by the announcement last month of plans for a 5,000-line electronic telecentre to come on stream in mid-1979. Before the war Beirut offered possibly the best international communications of any Arab capital. But the telecommunications revolution which has since swept the Gulf oil-producing countries has set new standards which Beirut must fight hard to attain if it hopes to reemerge as a leading Middle East business centre.

The authorities' determined efforts, led by Mr. Farid Rafail, the Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones (PTT), have already produced tangible results. Immediately after the war, making a telephone call was an adventure which often ended in failure. But Beirut's main telephone exchange, badly damaged during the fighting, has been repaired with the technical help of L. M. Ericsson of Sweden, so that now about 70 per cent of the capital's 175,000 telephone lines are functioning.

Mr. Rafail has promised 80,000 new telephone lines throughout the country by the end of next year. Of these, some 15,000 are for the capital's Hamra, Raouche and Marra districts, where the relocation of many of the businesses forced to move one of Beirut's devastated city centre pending its rebuilding has increased the demand for telephones tremendously. Le Matériel Téléphonique of France is likely to be contracted to carry out the necessary engineering work and supply equipment.

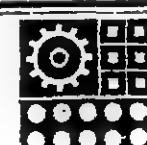
International telephone communication is provided by the recently reopened Arabiyyah earth-satellite station, submarine cable links with Alexandria, Marseilles and Cyprus, and a cable and radio link with Damascus. The system is already working, although long delays are often encountered, and it is hoped to re-introduce direct dialling to France soon.

At the end of the fighting in Beirut, there were less than 50 working tele lines.

Since then most of the country's 2,000 tele subscribers have been reconnected and an additional 1,200 lines should be available by June 1978. The postal service has also sprung back with remarkable vigour. Although only a limited parcel post operates, mail is sorted and distributed quickly and efficiently, and telegrams remain a useful alternative to telex.

At present the system is far from perfect. The number of telephone and telex lines is still inadequate, and the lack of equipment and maintenance over the past two years makes breakdowns inevitable. But the considerable progress made, and the speed and success of the drive to rehabilitate communications, have surprised even the sceptics and shown that the PTT is able to live up to its promises. If it executes its new plans quickly, it will do much to add to Beirut's undeniable attraction as a place to do business with the Middle East.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.



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CORRESPONDENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Member of the Lebanese Bankers Association

Battered economy comes bouncing back

by Samir Makdisi

The economic impact of the 1975-76 Lebanese war manifested itself in diverse ways. Various economic sectors suffered considerable losses through damage to plant and equipment. Some commercial banks closed down, confidence sagged and many companies, professional men and workers left the country.

Since the war ended there has been a flow of manpower into the country, and some of the companies which had moved out also returned. Inflationary pressures, however, intensified and continued. Creditors' relationships emerged. The war industry was not as big as had been, originally. It was accompanied by pillage of property and the forced eviction of a sizeable number of people from their homes.

The partitioning of the country during the war led to a similar division of the national economy, but economic links between the various parts continued to exist.

When hostilities ceased, the national economy was basically reunited and confidence began to be restored. Banking resumed almost immediately and industry, agriculture and commerce have since resumed on a substantial scale. This has occurred despite the fact that no final political agreement between the various parties to the conflict has yet been reached and the promised foreign aid has so far materialized only on a limited scale.

The damage sustained by the war industry was not as big as had been, originally. It was accompanied by pillage of property and the forced eviction of a sizeable number of people from their homes.

Lebanese industrial capacity has remained intact. Similarly, foreign trade activities have been expanding at a fairly quick pace. Recent official data indicate that Lebanese exports during the first half of 1977 (more than £1,600m) were growing rapidly.

At current prices, if the present trend continues, the total value of this year's exports may be approximately that of the previous period. In real terms, the expansion would be more limited because of inflation. It would, nevertheless, continue to be substantial.

Reaching the point of improvement in the Lebanese economy, however, is not the only task. The Lebanese pound is in the financial sector. According to IMF data, total bank deposits changed slightly over the period from 1974 to £1,600m at the end of 1974 to £1,600m at the end of 1977. Since then the level has changed little.

Net foreign assets of the banking system rose from £5,760m at the end of 1974 (17 per cent of imports) to £5,661m at the end of 1976. Converted into American dollars at prevailing market rates this would indicate a very limited drop from about US\$2,500m to about US\$2,300m respectively.

The international reserves of the Central Bank remained almost unchanged over this period, standing at about \$1,600m at the end of 1976 and dropping slightly to \$1,530m at the end of July, 1977.

The Central Bank intervened only occasionally on the foreign exchange market, permitting the rate of the Lebanese pound to fall from 2.40 per United States dollar at the end of 1974 to 2.90 at the end of 1976 and to about 3.10 at the end of July 1977. Since then the level has changed little.

The various factors underlying the Lebanese balance of payments cannot be discussed here. Suffice to state that Lebanon has continued since the Second World War to maintain a floating rate system. Similarly, Lebanon has boasted confidence in its currency and banking system by maintaining a free foreign exchange system even during the recent war.

Some observers may ascribe the positive aspects of the country's economic performance to the resiliency of the national economy and the enterprising spirit of the private sector. There are, however, also negative aspects to the economic performance. These relate to long-standing issues which have been accentuated by the 1975-76 war, and to issues which stem directly from the war and have yet to be coped

with effectively. In the latter class, the disrupted debtor-creditor relationships have not yet been fully and satisfactorily settled despite governmental efforts.

The problem of regional unemployment has not been given sufficient attention though its potential severity has been tempered by manpower outflow, especially to the Arab countries. The issues arising from wartime population displacements have not yet been settled and labour mobility between certain regions of the country is not yet fully assured.

The pace of arranging credit facilities to affected enterprises has been slow, though a more concerted effort seems to have been made in the past few weeks. Reconstruction of the commercial district of Beirut, which was hard hit during the war, is yet to begin.

But above all, issues face two basic tasks: to formulate a well-integrated

and still require governmental attention are socio-economic. Two problems, in particular, are: inadequate income distribution measured in real terms, and the lack of a proper coordination between rural and urban development.

Other words, it is the socio-economic content of Lebanon's growth which has not developed adequately. In contrast with the impressive economic expansion which the country witnessed since the Second World War and up to the recent civil war, a corollary of this thesis is that Lebanon has experienced a special duality necessary institutional framework for this process has been set up. Early in 1977 a Reconstruction and Development Board was established, and given wide powers to help to formulate and coordinate economic planning, in cooperation with the various ministries and public bodies concerned.

At the same time, on the basis of this year's economic record, and if political stability is assured, the Lebanese economy is capable of responding to challenges, particularly if the public sector plays its role competently. Indeed such challenges do not lie as much in the economic as in the political field. One problem of the public sector is that economic and political forces interact.

The author is chairman of the department of economics, American University of Beirut.

Only money can heal the battle scars

by Faris Glubb

The visible damage suffered by the Lebanese economy as a result of the fighting in 1975 and 1976 makes a vivid impression on anyone who takes a walk around central Beirut. Some of the fiercest and longest battles of the war took place in the commercial city centre and along the adjoining seafloor, where many of Lebanon's most luxurious hotels were located.

The area around Martyrs' Square, which includes the Stock Exchange, the central markets and the headquarters of many leading Lebanese companies, was a scene of almost total devastation when the fighting ended. The Stock Exchange building was destroyed by fire and shelling, and when the exchange

reopened in September, it was from temporary premises. Shops, offices and banks in the city centre were extensively looted in the general confusion, even when they did escape destruction.

The ancient central markets, a Lebanese version of Billingsgate, Smithfield, Portobello Road and Petticoat Lane all rolled into one, were almost totally destroyed. Many shopkeepers who formerly had premises in the markets are operating from wooden stalls, selling a wide variety of goods from fish to television sets, in temporary markets in various parts of the city.

Those who were wise enough to remove their stocks from their original shops in time count themselves lucky. Many small traders have lost everything, and had to start again from scratch. Almost every sector of the population has lost something as a result

of the destruction of the central markets, where intense competition had kept prices low. Lebanese economists have fixed the loss of the central markets as a big factor in Lebanon's inflation.

Along the seafloor, the Holiday Inn, the incomplete Hilton, the historic St Georges Hotel, the Phoenix and several other hotels were either destroyed or so badly damaged as to need almost total rebuilding.

Beirut port suffered the destruction of most of its buildings, warehouses and equipment. It was able to reopen in January this year, at a reduced capacity because of the lack of storage facilities for goods.

Beirut's main industrial zone at Mkalles was also located near an important baseleground—Tel el-Zaatar, which used to supply much of the labour force for its factories. Mr Fouad Abi Saleh, president of the

Lebanese Industrialists' Association, has estimated the industrial sector's direct losses (destruction or looting of equipment, stocks, buildings and so on) at \$1,500m. A team of experts from the Arab League's Industrial Development Centre has assessed Lebanese industry's direct losses at about 15 per cent of its invested capital, although some consider the figure too low.

Lebanon's indirect economic losses may be considerably greater than the direct and visible ones. According to Dr Muhammad Arslan, chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Council, the cost of Lebanon's physical economic reconstruction, as well as the support that the state budget will need during the reconstruction period, will be \$1,600m.

The indirect losses, such as the almost total absence of tourist business this year,

are harder to estimate, and will go on accumulating for a while, until Lebanon's present relative calm becomes lasting stability. Some economists calculate that the country's invisible losses, in terms of business lost by all sectors, have reached \$1,600m. In the light of prewar growth rates that the various sectors of the economy had been maintaining, this figure is a plausible one.

The Lebanese economy has been geared mainly to services, in particular tourism, banking and transit trade, with the oil states of the Arabian Peninsula the main clients. Much of Lebanon's foreign exchange came from Saudis, Qataris, Kuwaitis and Abu Dhabians who went for their summer holidays to enjoy the coolness of the mountain resorts and Beirut's famous entertainments—just at the same time to benefit from Lebanon's banking experience and to invest there. The bulk of that business is now going elsewhere, mainly to Western countries.

Beirut port used to handle a substantial part of the transit trade to the oil states. The port was closed for the whole of 1976. Since its reopening it has had no difficulty regaining lost business as rapidly as it can handle it, since the Arabian peninsula has been suffering from severe port congestion and supplementary routes are still needed to handle the large volume of imports.

Lebanon's visible exports have recovered rapidly. In the first six months of this year they totalled \$1,600m, according to Beirut's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. That compares with \$1,600m for the whole of 1976, the worst year of the war. Prewar totals were \$1,600m in 1973, \$1,600m in 1974 and \$1,600m in 1975. This year's export figures have been showing a steady upward curve, from \$1,600m in January to \$1,600m in March and \$1,600m in June.

However, 97 per cent of exports in the first half of 1977 went to other Arab countries, compared with 85 per cent in 1973 and 82 per cent in 1974. Lebanon has been losing the European market, which took 12 per cent of its exports in 1974. Regaining Arab clients has been relatively easy, because of the rapid growth of consumption in the oil states. The bulk of those exports are manufactured goods, notably building materials, electrical and mechanical equipment, chemicals and paper products.

The industrial sector for the accounts for a small proportion of Lebanon's economy. Other sectors, such as banking and tourism, will take longer to recover since they require full confidence in future stability.

The oil states have not shown a willingness to invest on the scale Lebanon needs for its reconstruction. Some have given relief aid and there has been some development and reconstruction aid from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait (the latter's private sector is also investing in a new luxury hotel on the seafloor).

But in general, the response of the richer Arab states to Lebanon's reconstruction needs has been disappointing. The Lebanese are becoming aware that the main effort of reconstruction must be theirs, and there is a willingness to bear the burden provided security is guaranteed.

In many ways the economy has stood up remarkably well to its ordeal. The Lebanese

pound, which is solidly backed by gold, has dropped from its prewar level of about £1,600 to the dollar, but that is largely because of increased demand for dollars and other foreign currencies in Beirut to finance exports. In Lebanese currency terms, the country's gold and foreign exchange reserves actually rose from about £1,600m on August 31, 1975, to a little over £1,600m on May 31, 1977. That is only partially attributable to the fall in the dollar value of the currency.

Perhaps the most serious loss may prove to be of skills. According to the Beirut Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 6 per cent of the work force were killed in the war and 13 per cent emigrated. The emigrants included a high proportion of skilled people like doctors, architects and engineers, who may prove hard to replace rapidly.

Waiters wait and see

by Denis Taylor

The tourist authorities are adopting what Mr Habib Letaief, of the Lebanon National Tourism Council, calls "a defensive position". He describes the task facing the industry as that of "redressing the image which the war gave to Lebanon", and says the Lebanese should be more confident about inviting holidaymakers back in 1978.

In normal times it was difficult to decide just who was a tourist in Lebanon. Lists of foreign arrivals include residents and students in Lebanon (except Syrians), and do not reveal how many times expatriates living in the country left and returned.

The figure for 1974, the last prewar year, was 553,737 from non-Arab countries and 896,203 from Arab states except Syria, giving altogether 1,449,940. The number of overnight stays in Beirut hotels was 2,307,122, again with no indication of how long individuals stayed and without distinction between businessmen and tourists. This year the number of guests arriving at Beirut hotels ranged from 4,275 in January to 13,307 in August. The corresponding figures for 1974 were 43,691 and 67,022.

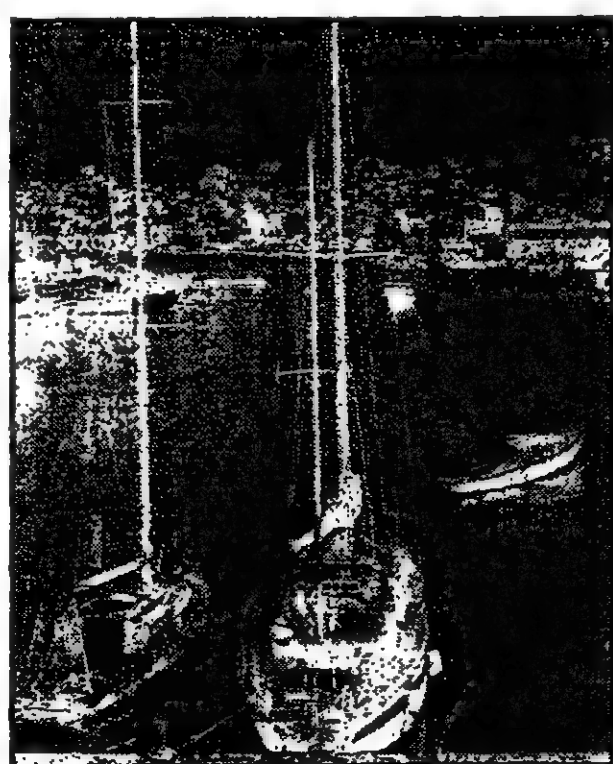
There were 41,182 overnight stays and in July 1977 the occupancy rate of 24.3 per cent and 35.7 per cent respectively.

Lebanon traditionally attracted oilmen and other expatriate staff working in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, who wanted to escape for a few days from the rigours of the climate. The Gulf Arabs also spent time relaxing in Beirut, as well as doing business or having medical treatment.

Gulf Arabs are said to be investing once again in land and property in Lebanon. However, their white-robed figures are certainly scarcer on the streets of the capital than they were before the war.

Some of the best known hotels in Beirut, notably the St Georges and the Holiday Inn, were devastated by the fighting in the seafloor area. The Lebanese are therefore anxious to counter the impression that foreigners will not find anywhere to stay.

"Lebanon still has 3,000 first-class hotel beds, more than the rest of the Middle East put together", Mr Letaief said. His council wanted to persuade businessmen, tourists from other Arab countries, of the civil war, such as the armed seatrips behind sand-



Yachts at Jounieh, the resort north of Beirut which acted as the Christian capital during the civil war.

ference delegates to use them.

At the same time, he recognized that Lebanon was not yet an open country. "Syria is out of bounds for the moment", he said—an admission that where the Palestinians' writ ran was not the place to go for a leisurely tour. Whatever the authorities say, they cannot hide the fact the southern Lebanon is a war zone.

Travelling in the northern part of the country is fairly straightforward. The main difficulty can be the slowing down of road traffic at checkpoints manned by Syrian soldiers of the Arab peacekeeping forces. They do not bother to stop every car, and when they do so are normally courteous, often merely asking what town you are travelling to or from, and not demanding documents.

Artillery positions and tanks drawn up off the road are a reminder of the firepower held in reserve. Tank convoys on the road can also delay traffic.

Most of the mountain towns and villages look idyllically calm, and nothing could on the surface be more peaceful than the farmlands and vineyards of the Bekaa Valley. Only occasionally is there a reminder of the civil war, such as the armed seatrips behind sand-

bags under the statue celebrating wine at the entrance to Zahleh.

It is pleasant to visit the superb Roman temples at Baalbek now that the site is so uncrowded. A guide said that most visitors were Lebanese, foreigners working in Beirut, and Syrians.

When I went into the main hotel in Baalbek for a drink on a recent Sunday, the staff almost swept me into the dining room, so eager were they for customers. Only two people were having lunch there.

Air travel to Lebanon has recovered substantially in the 12 months since Beirut airport was reopened. It had been closed for five months after a Middle East Airlines Boeing was hit by a shell on June 27 1976, killing the captain and fatally wounding the first officer.

MEA has restored practically all its prewar routes, and the average number of passengers for July, August and September was 92,000—87 per cent of the figure for the comparable period of 1974. The average load factor last summer was 77 per cent.

After the closure of Beirut airport, MEA shifted some operations to Paris. More than 40 of the airline staff, Lebanon's largest employer apart from the Government, died during the civil war.

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Bonn rejects call by OECD for further boost to its economy

From David Blake
Paris, Nov 21

Bonn today ruled out the possibility of more stimulatory measures for the West German economy in 1978 and predicted that German growth would be "nearer 4 per cent than 3 per cent" next year.

Herr Hans Tietmeyer of the economics ministry rejected forecasts by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development that Germany would grow by only 3 per cent in 1978, pointing to government hopes of a recovery in investment next year.

However, there seems to be a general feeling here that this year Germany is likely to make a sufficiently large contribution to economic recovery next year.

Mr Charles Schulze, chairman of the United States Council of Economic Advisers, seems to have been fairly tough in his call during the meeting for greater stimulatory action during the coming months from the strong countries in particular. The Americans are particularly critical of Japanese growth targets of only 6 per cent for the fiscal year beginning next April.

Virtually all of Japan's partners want Tokyo to promote faster growth, but the Japanese do not seem to have budged at all during today's meeting.

The meeting, which is formally known as the economy policy committee of the OECD, has been going over gloomy forecasts for the world economy next year.

America and Germany both feel the OECD predictions for their countries are too pessimistic. The Americans say that

they intend to get 5 per cent growth next year and will do whatever is needed to reach it, while the Germans argue that the OECD economists have not taken account of measures already in the pipeline.

Most of the debate is not about forecasting, however, but about what, if anything, can be done to cope with a world economy which seems to be slowing down. The OECD's latest forecasts, which were issued last week, predict that the world economy will grow by 2.7 per cent in 1978, down from 3.2 per cent in 1977.

Both the secretariat and the Germans seem agreed that 4 per cent growth in Germany would be a reasonable target for next year. However, the Germans no longer believe they can get sustained growth by changes in their budgetary policy.

This does not prevent them recommending such measures to other people. Herr Tietmeyer was very critical of the "income tax" under which the Germans would like to see a drive for world recovery.

Brussels proposals for monetary union within EEC meet a lukewarm response

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Nov 21

Proposals by the European Commission for accelerating progress towards economic and monetary union received a lukewarm reception from EEC finance ministers today.

Most hostile reaction came from the two German representatives, Herr Hans Apel, the finance minister, and Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the economics minister, although they both reserved their most caustic comments for the corridors of today's meeting.

Along with the British, the Dutch and the Danes responded with varying degrees of interest—if for somewhat different reasons. Only the Belgian and Italian ministers came out clearly in support of the Commission's proposals, which they felt had struck a balance between previous initiatives.

It was accepted that Mr Roy Jenkins, the president of the Commission, should be allowed to elaborate on the Commission's scheme at next month's summit meeting of EEC heads of government. But most member states thought it would be far too early to expect substantive discussion of the proposals.

The Commission's scheme looks to a five-year preparatory period during which EEC member states would be asked to improve coordination of their economic policies. They would also be asked to make moves towards fixing exchange rates and a partial pooling of national currency reserves.

The main German complaint was that the scheme was a thinly disguised attempt to increase the transfer of resources from the richer to the poorer parts of the community without any assurance that this would also lead to close political integration.

The Germans also said that moves towards economic and monetary union would make it harder for Greece, Spain and Portugal, which have all applied

Inflation and pay fears unsettle the pound

By Our Economics Staff

Stocking fell sharply on the foreign exchange yesterday as the market became nervous about the prospects for pay and inflation in Britain. Early in the day the pound rose to above \$1.83 against the dollar as the American currency slumped in all markets.

The pound finally closed at \$1.8175, down 1 cent from Friday's close. The effective rate index was 0.1 down on Friday at 63.7.

The Bank of England was thought to have supported the pound when it got to the \$1.8125 mark.

In Tokyo the dollar plunged to new lows against the new Japanese yen despite heavy intervention in support of the dollar by the Bank of Japan. It now seems clear that last week's measures to hold down the yen by restricting speculative inflows have not been successful.

Share prices in Tokyo have dropped to their lowest level of the year as a result of the persistent yen appreciation. Gold dropped \$4.25 in London yesterday to close at \$157.35 an ounce, its lowest point in over a month. The market had revived slightly on Friday after falling from the two-year highs achieved in the previous week.

There are fears that the pound will be further weakened by the fact that the government is likely to have to raise interest rates to combat inflation. This would be a double-edged sword, as it would also lead to a further strengthening of the dollar.

The first effect of higher earnings growth is to raise output and employment as well as to cut the public sector deficit.

It was felt that publication of alternative forecasts showing this would hinder the Government's attempts to secure moderate pay increases. As prices catch up with the picture changes, with faster inflation, a worse balance of payments and ultimately slower growth.

The major task of the five-man IMF team is to agree with the Government on the financial framework for next year, and to decide when Britain should pay back the money borrowed from the fund.

Although the Government has announced that no further drawing will be made on the standby credit negotiated with the fund last year, the credit will remain open until the end of next year. The Government

is thus still bound by the Letter of Intent which sets out central estimates for the PSBR and Domestic Credit Expansion.

There is still keen debate at the Treasury and the Bank of England over the right targets to set for next year.

The Government's own money supply target has become extremely important this year, as the fund measure of monetary control, DCE, has been running well below the ceiling. It now seems certain that no firm figures for the money supply targets for next year will be agreed with the fund team.

Britain signs £115m Polish ships deal

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Britain's shipbuilding industry yesterday secured the £115m order it has been seeking from Poland.

It had been under negotiation for more than 18 months, and several times appeared to be in danger of foundering.

But Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and top executives of British Shipbuilders, refused to comment when pressed for financial details of the package.

Although it was stressed by Mr Varley and his ministerial colleagues, Mr Kaufman, that the financing terms had been approved by the EEC Commission and did not contravene any international guidelines, suspicions will remain, not least among British shipping companies.

The deal involves 2 cargo ships and two crane barges, all of which are scheduled to be delivered before the first quarter of 1980. They will be owned by a joint company formed between British Shipbuilders and the Polish state shipping company, PZM, which will operate them on a 15-year bareboat charter.

Ministers and Mr Michael Cates, chief executive of British Shipbuilders, refused to be drawn on the terms of the charter rates, insisting that they remain confidential. However, the agreement will provide for the proceeds of any of the British-built ships sold during the 15 years to be divided between the two state companies.

But the agreement does not stipulate that the ships shall not be used in competition with western flag ships, although the Poles have stated that they are essentially replacement vessels for Polish short sea trades.

Effectively the Poles will receive 100 per cent credit in the deal. Hambros, financial advisers to the Department of Industry, has already raised a \$65m (about £36m) bond issue on behalf of British Shipbuilders at 9 per cent with a final maturity in 1992. This will form the bulk of the 30 per cent down payment on the package.

The balance of 70 per cent, raised on the normal Export Credits Guarantee Department terms of 7 1/2 per cent repayable over seven years, is being raised by Hambros in partnership with Guinness Mahon, financial advisers to British Shipbuilders.

Britain's ability to secure the order against considerable initial competition was eased substantially by a large subsidy—believed to exceed £25m—from the shipping intervention fund introduced earlier this year to narrow the gap between United Kingdom and foreign yard prices.

Mr Casey, together with shipbuilding union leaders, is to tour a number of yards this week, and allocation of the orders could be made before the weekend. Most likely to secure orders are Swan Hunter, Coventry Shipbuilders, Robt Caledon on the Scottish east coast, and the lower Clyde group of Scott Lithgow.



Mr Zylkowski, left, Polish Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Shipping, and Mr Varley signing £115m deal.

Mr Varley said the package would provide some 8,000 man years of shipyard work besides that of supporting industries. United Kingdom equipment, including engines, will account for 92 per cent of the material and component content of the ships.

Addressing a press conference before signing the agreement, Mr Varley said that the importance of the order to Britain could not be over-emphasized, the signatures were only the beginning.

"A great deal of effort and hard work will be needed to

ensure that every ship in this order is completed and delivered on time," he added. The terms of the contract involved considerable penalty clauses, and executives will underline the importance of delivery dates being met, in their tour of yards.

Despite attracting over 500,000 tons gross of new orders this year, United Kingdom shipbuilding requires further orders to ensure continued employment for its labour force.

Business letter, page 30

Shell and Esso sign BNOC pact

By Roger Vignoles

Shell and Esso, one of the biggest offshore exploration groups, yesterday signed final participation agreements giving the British National Oil Corporation an option to buy 51 per cent of their North Sea output.

For because the two companies have major refining and marketing operations in Britain, the agreements require BNOC to sell back to Shell and Esso at the same market price, sufficient oil to service these operations. This will mean that Shell and Esso retain all their North Sea production.

These options do not cover gas liquids from the Brent field that will be brought ashore through a pipeline into the Fergus terminal. Shell and Esso will have control over the propane, butane, ethane and natural gas that will be used to create a petrochemical complex at Mossmorran, Fife, on the Firth of Forth.

Both companies are awaiting the result of a public inquiry into their plans for a gas processing and export terminal and an ethylene cracker on the site. Provided the proposals are not rejected, Esso, which will build the ethylene plant, expects to make a final decision on the project early next year.

To compensate for lack of options over the Brent field, BNOC will have rights to a proportionately greater share of gas liquids from other Shell/Esso fields.

BOC International seeks bigger stake in New Jersey-based Airco gas group

By Christopher Wilkins

BOC International is negotiating a big increase in its 34 per cent stake in Airco, the third largest producer of industrial gases in the United States.

In a terse statement yesterday BOC said the "summer and autumn" price of any additional shares have not yet been determined and BOC is unable at present to predict the outcome of the discussions.

However, it seems that the negotiations with Airco have already reached an advanced stage and could be tied up within the next day or two. An announcement was only made yesterday because of a rise in Airco's share price in New York last Thursday and Friday.

Airco's listing was suspended yesterday with the shares at \$33, just below their year's high despite a steep decline in Wall Street.

It is almost certain that BOC is seeking to raise its stake in Airco to more than 50 per cent, although it is unlikely that it will try to bid for all of the outstanding equity.

BOC's strong possibility is that it will aim to take its holding to between 50 and 60 per cent, which would be enough to enable it to consolidate Airco fully into its own accounts.

To do this it will probably make a tender offer. If BOC were to take its stake up to 55 per cent at the present market price it would cost \$43m (about £25m).

Its original holding was bought at \$20 a share and cost a total of \$68m. At yesterday's suspension price that interest is worth \$134m and the whole of Airco is capitalised at \$395m.

Council of Airco, which is based in New Jersey, would make BOC the second biggest producer of industrial gases in the world after Air Liquide of France. As a group, however, BOC would be bigger than Air Liquide in terms of sales.

In 1976 Airco's sales were \$837m (£465m) and its net income was \$54m. In the first nine months of this year sales have totalled \$685m and its net income was \$42.4m.

BOC's move to step up its stake comes almost immediately after the failure of efforts by the United States Federal Trade Commission to force it to sell off the holding on the grounds that it presented a threat to potential entry to the American industrial gases market. In May the FTC's dissenting ruling had been set aside by a federal circuit court of appeal.

Financial Editor, page 31

14-day shutdown for BSC at Christmas

By Tim Jones

The British Steel Corporation will halt all production for a fortnight over the Christmas period because of the grave trading situation facing the country. Normally the works shut down for about a week over the period, but with sparse order books and losses amounting to some £10m a week, there is little demand for higher production.

The management will be able to gauge the full extent of the situation on Thursday, when the company's half-yearly results

are to be published. These are expected to show continuing heavy losses.

Peter Norman writes in Bonn: Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, is preparing to meet leaders of the country's steel industry, the IG Metall trade union and representatives of the federal states where steel is produced, to discuss the crisis in the industry, which is now entering its fourth year.

The Bonn Government spokesman today disclosed that Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, has been ordered to

prepare a report on the industry in advance of the meeting, for which a date has yet to be fixed. Germany is about the only country in Europe that is not subsidising its steel industry. Crude production which in the record year of 1974 totalled more than 53 million tonnes, is unlikely to reach 40 million tonnes this year.

Capacity utilisation is running at between 50 and 60 per cent. About 53,000 workers are on short time.

Bid for Allied Investments 'within days'

By Caroline Atkinson

Members of the International Monetary Fund began a detailed examination of the Treasury's latest forecasts for the economy yesterday. They will be joined today by Mr Alan Whitehead, the leader of the fund team.

Although the Government is still officially aiming at a 10 per cent increase in earnings this year, many officials believe that 15 per cent is more realistic.

The IMF team will almost certainly be shown the Treasury's forecasts for the economy based on this assumption as well as those on 10 per cent from which the latest published forecasts are drawn.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 199.88-2.34
The FT index: 475.3-5.2

Rises

Assam Frontier	15p to 310p
Auslin	5p to 62p
Estate Duties	61p to 234p
Ldn Prov Foster	10p to 165p
Midland A & J	5p to 120p
Peak Ind	5p to 28p

Falls

Barclays Bank	6p to 317p
Beecham	6p to 620p
Dalgety	12p to 201p
Electrocomp	18p to 315p
Furness Withy	10p to 340p
Goode D & M	2p to 25p
GEC	6p to 242p
Hawker Sid	2p to 163p

Equities lost ground. Gold-edged securities fell back. Dollar premium 99.30 per cent. Sterling was 75 pps lower at \$1.8175. The effective exchange rate index was at 63.7.

On other pages

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THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.67	1.62
Austria Sch	38.75	28.75
Belgium Fr	66.75	63.75
Canada \$	2.07	2.02
Denmark Kr	11.52	11.22
Finland Mk	7.80	7.55
France Fr	3.10	2.78
Germany Dm	4.27	4.05
Greece Dr	78.50	74.00
Hongkong \$	8.80	8.35
Italy Lr	1635.00	1580.00
Japan Yen	465.00	440.00
Netherlands Gld	4.59	4.37
Norway Kr	10.26	9.90
Portugal Esc	78.25	74.25
S Africa Rd	1.79	1.67
Spain Pes	158.00	152.00
Sweden Kr	9.05	8.70
Switzerland Fr	4.20	3.98
US \$	1.87	1.82
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	36.25

Gold lost \$4.25 an ounce to \$157.35. SDR-4 was 1.18251 on Friday while SDR-5 was 0.649766. Commodities: Reuters index was at 1485.9 (previous 1486.5). Reports 32

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Bank of England. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

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State industry boards 'must accept reforms'

By Malcolm Brown

Sir Ronald McIntosh, director general of the National Economic Development Office, yesterday criticised state industry boards for not facing up to the urgent need for a thoroughgoing reform in running their industries.

In a memorandum to the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries, Sir Ronald said that while there was general agreement with the findings of last year's highly critical NEDO report he detected a reluctance to face up to the implications.

The industries' proposals for remedying the weaknesses identified by the NEDO—lack of trust and understanding between those who run them and those in Government and Whitehall, absence of a systematic framework for reaching agreement on long-term objectives and strategy—seemed inadequate.

"We think that many of them fail to recognize that the conflicts and lack of trust which have bedevilled past relationships were inherent in the present system and can be expected to reappear," the memorandum says. "We are convinced that a change in the structure of relationships is required."

The NEDO report, *A Study of United Kingdom Nationalized Industries*, proposed radical structural changes, including setting up policy councils to provide the forum for greater participation by Whitehall, trades unions and consumers in the industries' strategic planning.

Sir Ronald concedes that there has been an improvement in the past 18 months largely because of change in the government policy towards state industry pricing.

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT

Moscow Narodny Bank Limited

Moscow Representative Office

We are pleased to announce that following an agreement signed on 21st November, the Moscow Narodny Bank Limited representative in the U.S.S.R. will now also represent the Bank of Scotland and Morgan Grenfell and Co. Limited. The representative office in the centre of Moscow will offer a wide range of facilities including a conference room, typing and telex services and the arrangement of appointments, to all our customers.

Our representative in Moscow is O.I. Lapushkin
Suite 2, Kursovoi Pereulok 1/1
Moscow 119034 USSR

Telephone: 2031. 857 International Telex: 7021

For further information within the United Kingdom

Moscow Narodny Bank Limited
S.R.H. Smith (telephone 01-623 2500)

Bank of Scotland
A.T. Gibson (telephone Edinburgh 031-556 2231)

Morgan Grenfell & Co Limited
J.S.S. Syrett (telephone 01-588 4545)

In brief

Canada tops list of strike-prone countries

Canada heads the International Labour Organization list of countries which lost most time last year in industrial disputes. Strikes and lockouts cost an average 2.27 days per worker. In Italy it was 2.2 days.

Next was Australia, with 1.5 days, followed by Finland (1.3), United States (1.19), New Zealand (0.94), and the Republic of Ireland (0.84). The provisional figure for France was 0.42 (excluding general strikes), the United Kingdom 0.30 and Japan 0.15.

Negligible figures—less than one-tenth of a day—were reported for West Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

Consortium banks in tax assessment plea

Appeals against Inland Revenue tax assessments arising from last year's fall in sterling are being made by at least two foreign-owned consortium banks in a ruling that could affect several other banks in the City. Western American Bank, where a recently announced reorganization gave the Bank of Tokyo a 51 per cent interest, confirmed yesterday that it had appealed against an Inland Revenue assessment.

Midland cuts loan rate

Midland Bank is to cut its interest rate on personal loans, leaving Lloyds the only one of the big four clearing banks that has not yet brought its rates into line with the sharp fall in interest this year. From Thursday Midland's rates on personal loans will range from 13 1/2 per cent for a six-month loan to 14 1/2 per cent on a three-year agreement, compared with 15.4 and 16 per cent at present.

Weir drops takeover

Takeover talks between Weir Group, the Scottish steel foundry pump and valve makers, Samuel Osborn, the smaller Sheffield special steels concern, have been called off. Osborn's shares, which reached 90p on the day the talks were announced nearly a month ago, have recently been a weak market, and yesterday fell 16p to close at 65p.

200-seat airbus offered

The European airbus consortium is to start selling a smaller 200-seater version of the wide-bodied twin-engine jet airliner from next month. A spokesman for Deutsche Airbus GmbH confirmed yesterday that specifications for the aircraft would be offered to airlines in December.

Review of advertising

A review of the effectiveness of the advertising industry's self-policing system is to be undertaken by Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading. The voluntary structure was overhauled in 1975.

Montefibre reduces pay to 40 pc of total

From John Earle
Rome, Nov 21

Montefibre, the chemical fibres manufacturer and one of the heaviest loss-makers in the troubled Montedison group, is unable to meet its wages bill and, according to a company official, will pay only 40 per cent of November salaries.

The company already has 6,000 of its 26,000 workforce in Italy suspended under the government's Cassa Integrazione or relief fund scheme, whereby workers receive approximately 80 per cent of wages for a limited period.

It is among an increasing number of companies which are finding that the fall in production this autumn is resulting in manpower surpluses.

Trasider, the big-state-owned steelmaker, wishes to put 6,500 workers into Cassa Integrazione, 3,300 of them at the unprofitable Bagnoli steelworks near Naples, while a scarcity of new orders threatens to swell the 500 already suspended at the Italcantieri shipyards at Montefalcone, near Trieste.

Montefibre sees no further prospects of employment for its 6,000 surplus workers and wishes to shed them permanently.

Two weeks ago this seemed possible when the government decided to take over financial responsibility for the new law on industrial reconversion, but the unions objected.

Montefibre lost 99,900m lire (\$66.6m) last year.

Plant switch may follow union refusal to boost Rover output

By Clifford Webb

Mr Derek Whitaker, managing director of Leyland Cars, has lost patience with shop stewards at Rover and Triumph who are refusing to cooperate in a £250m project to double output of the Land-Rover and Range Rover.

With European and Japanese competitors threatening Leyland's world leadership in four-wheel-drive vehicles, he is considering replacing the present proposals for expansion at existing plants in Solihull and Coventry with a new factory on a green field site.

The possible choice of site has not been disclosed but the company said that it does not favour expansion in areas away from its traditional Midlands base.

Its Merseyside plant,

Triumph Speke near Liverpool, has one of the worst labour relations records in the motor industry and is now shut by a three-week-old strike which has stopped production of the TR7 sports car and the Dolomite assembled at Coventry.

Mr Whitaker's tough line is intended to bring the Rover-Triumph shop stewards into line and also to ward off mounting opposition to Leyland's participation machinery.

The Transport and General Workers' Union's biggest branch, Oxford 5/60, has voted to withdraw and is seeking an early meeting of shop stewards from all Leyland's 34 plants to urge similar action.

Shop stewards at Solihull and Coventry refused to join parties in the first place. Until they do Mr Whitaker has said

that he will not seek the approval of the National Enterprise Board or the Department of Industry for such a huge capital investment project.

One of the important benefits brought by participation has been step-by-step bargaining and agreement on manning and productivity levels for capital projects such as the new Mini to be built at Longbridge.

Without shop floor commitments in these two key areas he believes he will be wasting taxpayers' money.

He already has an example at Rover of what can happen. Production of the much-sought-after Rover 3500, 2600 and 2300 range of executive saloons is depressed by the shop stewards' refusal to accept night shift working.

Strike dashes Vauxhall profit hope

By Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Vauxhall Motors' hopes of achieving its first profits after five consecutive loss-making years have been dashed by the most serious strike in its recent history.

By last night the five-week-old dispute, which has halted all car, van and truck production, had cost the General Motors subsidiary over 27,000 vehicles worth £75 at showroom prices.

Some 20,000 men are laid off without pay, and losses are mounting at the rate of £2.8m for each working day.

Only four months ago Mr Bob Price, the American man-

aging director, reported a £2m net profit for the first six months of the year, compared with net losses of £1.8m in 1976, £1.3m in 1975, and £1.8m in 1974. It reflected the slow but promising recovery which has followed his arrival from Australia nearly four years ago.

How damaging the new setback will be rests on the outcome today of a meeting of 800 skilled workers on strike at the company's Ellesmere Port plant. So far they have ignored a return to work instruction issued last week by the national executive of their union—the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Vauxhall's offer of an extra

3.5 per cent for skilled grades—on top of a general 10 per cent wage increase—has already persuaded 3,000 skilled men at Luton and Dunstable to end a similar strike. But without the components supplied by Ellesmere, no factories can re-open.

The strikers are demanding a written guarantee from the company that they will be upgraded before they return to work.

Vauxhall cannot make this concession without upsetting groups of disgruntled employees who are only being persuaded to stay their hand until a joint working party has completed a review of the whole problem of skilled men's wage differentials.

Rates for loans to industry are cut

The maximum rate of interest relief grant and interest rates for loans under Section 7 of the Industry Act, 1972, have been reduced.

The Department of Industry said yesterday that the rate of interest relief grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow the equivalent of an interest-free period on a department loan, but where firms obtain their finance from other sources, was being reduced from 10½ per cent to 10 per cent for each interest-free year.

The concessionary rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects has been reduced from 7½ per cent to 7 per cent, and the broadly-commercial rate of interest on loans for modernization projects, not providing additional employment, has gone down from 10½ per cent to 10 per cent.

British Island

British Islands Airways are to appeal to Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade against the decision of Civil Aviation Authority to reject their applications to operate scheduled services from Gatwick to six European destinations.

In a recent hearing decision, the authority awarded the routes to Frankfurt, Hamburg, Copenhagen, Zurich, Geneva and Dublin, British Airways and British Caledonian.

OECD oil imports rise

Crude oil imports by the 24-member nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) increased 12.2 per cent last year to 1,237 million tonnes from 1,102 million in 1975, it was announced by the International Energy Agency.

The impact of increased demand on imports differed considerably in the three OECD areas. In North America, with production flagging, imports of crude oil and products rose 23.5 per cent. In Japan, the figure was 7.6 per cent up and in Europe 8.3 per cent.

Steel production up

Crude steel production in the 29-member countries of the International Iron and Steel Institute rose 1.2 per cent in October to 36,741,000 tonnes from 36,299,000 tonnes in September, but was down 4.9 per cent from 38,620,000 tonnes produced in October, 1976, the institute reported. In the first 10 months of 1977, total crude steel output was 2.9 per cent down at 365,911,000 tonnes.

Japan's surplus talks

Japan and the United States still have a long way to go before finding a satisfactory solution to the problem of Japan's current account balance of payments surplus, official American sources said at the end of five days of bilateral talks in Tokyo.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Waterways invaluable arm of transport

From the Chairman of the National Waterways Transport Association

Sir, I refer to your article of November 9. "Region will carry not only the canals but the canals".

You report Lord Nugent, Chairman of the National Water Council, as stating: "Freight is carried now only on the major waterways, and it has got to be a good (sic), big vessel to make it economic. Therefore I should have thought the prospect for an expansion of water freight is limited."

As far as the involvement of "small regional ports" is concerned one of the prime advantages of inland waterways is that they allow sea-going vessels or ship-transported barges to penetrate deep into inland industrial areas, linking them directly with overseas markets. In particular this is not one which any established port, small, regional or otherwise, is likely to exploit.

It is also worth remembering that virtually all movement of freight on waterways in this country is already performed by specialist private companies. As regards a "specialist organization", one already exists (the British Waterways Board) which the Government currently proposes to break up and merge with Lord Nugent's water industry.

I believe the underlying theme of Lord Nugent's remarks, is that the National Water Council does not want to become a public utility in the freight business. They may well be right, but with the planned demise of the British Waterways Board, someone will have to take over its role as the (public) body that looks after water freight. It will be a scandal if this invaluable arm of transport is allowed to wither just because no one was made responsible for it.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. HOPE,
Melbury House,
London NW1 6JX,
November 11.

I believe the underlying theme of Lord Nugent's remarks, is that the National Water Council does not want to become a public utility in the freight business. They may well be right, but with the planned demise of the British Waterways Board, someone will have to take over its role as the (public) body that looks after water freight. It will be a scandal if this invaluable arm of transport is allowed to wither just because no one was made responsible for it.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. HOPE,
Melbury House,
London NW1 6JX,
November 11.

The case against nationalization of building industry

From Mr W. Corbishley

Sir, Probably the most important resolution to be passed by the Labour Party Conference was that which has been most noticeably ignored by the media—the nationalization of the building industry.

A major factor in the cost of living is the cost of building, affecting as it does such large expenses as mortgages, rent and rates, the cost of production and exchange is also affected by the cost of building since construction represents 30 per cent of the nation's capital investment. Yet the Labour Party makes no effort to justify the nationalization of the construction industry on the grounds of cost saving, it only possible justification in the national interest.

Every major social improvement is affected by the cost of construction whether it be in the field of housing, hospital improvement, nursery education, old people's homes, prison reform, and so forth.

Yet there is abundant evidence from past experience that building by employees directly employed by public authorities is the most expensive form of construction, and nationalization of the construction industry could serve only to increase costs, reduce employment and delay social reform.

Yours faithfully,
W. CORBISLEY,
National Federation of Building Trades Employers,
2 Cornhill Road,
Victoria Park, Manchester,
November 4.

Honeywell regroups UK marketing divisions

Reorganized marketing structure and the prospect of a record year's business in 1977 were announced by Honeywell Information Systems yesterday.

Mr Russ Handerson, managing director, said that from January computer marketing would be grouped in three divisions—large mainframes, medium-sized and small mainframes, and minicomputers and terminals.

Formation of the microcomputers division, under Mr Vince Gagarin, had already been announced. The two new groups are the data processing division—handling large systems—headed by Mr Rene Berger, and the general systems division, headed by Mr Jim Duncan, and covering small and medium-sized systems.

All three divisions will report to Mr Brian Long, the newly-appointed deputy managing director. Mr Long will also be responsible for the company's customer services division (field engineering and support ser-

Computer news

which handles the company's page printing system, and staff functions covering business planning, marketing services and communications.

The change follows a similar reorganization by the parent company in the United States (though with different product lines in the two mainframe divisions). The main reason for the change, Mr Long said, was to improve customer service through a greater specialization by Honeywell staff.

Honeywell Information Systems would exceed a turnover of £50m this year, Mr Long said. For the first nine months orders were up by 30 per cent, shipments by 34 per cent and turnover by 34 per cent.

Over the next four years the company's target was to double

its level of business in the United Kingdom. The 1977 growth had been balanced across the complete range of products.

Gamma progress

Sustained growth both centrally and via the setting up of associated joint-venture companies was reported last week by Gamma Associates, the Nottingham-based systems house, specializing in systems incorporating Digital Equipment Corporation minicomputers, Gamma aims to show a £2.5m turnover this year.

The central company has four main fields of activity under Dr George Coggan, managing director. These are commercial turnkey systems, financial systems, technical and industrial systems, and bureau services.

Gamma's philosophy was based on three concepts, Dr Coggan said. First, to regard the DEC PDP range of minicomputers as the "Model T

Ford" of commercial computing, offering effective data processing at a lower cost to a wide spectrum of users.

Secondly, to realize that the bureau business would swing from batch to timesharing operations. Thirdly, to set up a number of joint-venture companies as well as to expand the existing business.

The joint-venture approach represented Gamma's main trend in development. Sir Denning Pearson, the former chairman of Rolls-Royce and now chairman of Gamma Associates, said. The joint-venture companies bought their DEC computers via Gamma; both sides benefited from the volume discounts obtained.

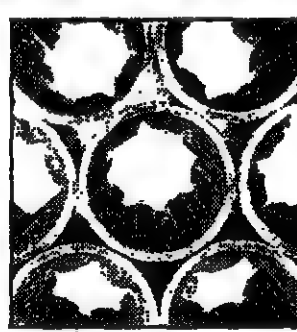
Next year, Dr Coggan indicated, Gamma was likely to look to Europe and the United States for its further growth, including new joint ventures.

Kenneth Owen

Breaking the ice with Russia keeps us growing

Right: BTR Silvertown Limited make cutless bearings for a wide variety of applications such as marine pumps and turbines.

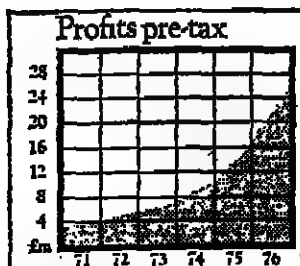
Far right: The Yermak does not ride up on the ice and break it with her weight. Instead she changes head-on and levers the ice apart with controlled lists to port and starboard.



The Russian icebreaker Yermak uses BTR cutless bearings to take the strain as she smashes her way through the Arctic ice. The increasing penetration of specialist markets for products such as this is helping to maintain BTR's dynamic growth rate of the past eight years.

We supply thousands of other products to the engineering, transportation, energy and mining industries worldwide. Vital components for cars, trains and planes. Hoses of all types. Heavy-duty conveyor belting. Oil platform steelwork assemblies. A wide variety of rubber, plastic and engineering components.

We're confident we've got the right mix to carry on growing: sales to vital industries and worldwide manufacture and distribution. Above all an operating philosophy that actively encourages growth.



BTR stands for growth

BTR Limited, Silvertown House, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PL

NTPC

National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
NEW DELHI (INDIA)

INVITATION TO BID FOR LOCOMOTIVE AND WAGON PACKAGES SINGRAULI SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT

Proposals are invited by the National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd., for the works mentioned herein, for Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project at Ranibari, District Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, India.

The proposals shall be received at the address and on the dates mentioned herein upto 10.30 hrs. (IST) and opened on the same day at 11.00 hrs. (IST).

The Project is partly financed by credit from the International Development Association. Participation is limited to Bidders from member countries of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and Switzerland. The equipments, materials and services proposed shall have their source of origin in member countries of IBRD and Switzerland.

S. No.	Scope of work	Cost of bid documents per set Rs. US\$	Dates between which bid documents will be available		Date set for opening of bids.
			From	To	
1.	Manufacture, furnishing and commissioning at site (including assembly works at site, if any) of 3 Nos. 1676 mm gauge Co-Co Diesel Electric Locomotives with automatic creep control, complete with accessories and spares. (Specification No. CC-12-006 B)	500 60	21st Nov. 1977	17th Jan. 1978	24th Jan. 1978
2.	Manufacture, furnishing, erection and commissioning at Site of 45 Nos. Bottom Discharge bogie-hopper Wagons fitted with electropneumatically operated doors, and line side Equipment including a Control Console for triggering operation of the wagon door mechanism. (Specification No. CC-12-006 A)	500 60	21st Nov. 1977	31st Jan. 1978	7th Feb. 1978

Bidders who wish to participate in the Locomotive Package should have designed, manufactured and furnished 500 or more locomotives of at least 1000 h.p., each of which are in successful operation for a period of not less than 5 years.

Bidders who wish to participate for Wagon Package should have designed, manufactured and furnished regularly, over the last 5 years a total of 2500 bogie wagons (8 wheelers) or 5000 four-wheeled wagons or a combination thereof. At least 1000 bogie wagons or 2000 four-wheeled wagons or a combination of equivalent number, so furnished must have been in successful operation for a period of not less than 3 years. The Bidder and/or his sub-contractor shall in addition have designed, manufactured, furnished and erected electropneumatically operated door mechanism with associated 3 years.

The Bidders will be required to furnish a Bid Guarantee and Contract Performance Guarantee for amounts of 2% and 10% respectively.

The Bidding documents can be had from the address given below on payment of the cost of bid documents for respective items either by certified cheque or by crossed demand draft payable to National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, at New Delhi.

Contract Services
National Thermal Power Corporation Limited
11th Floor, Ashoka Estate,
24, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110 001 (India)
Telex: ND 2266.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

BOC International prepares to build its Airco stake

It has been widely assumed for some time that, if only the objections of the United States Federal Trade Commission could be overcome, BOC International would seek to lift its stake in Airco. The FTC finally withdrew its case in September and BOC has wasted no time in opening talks with Airco. Indeed, even before the FTC withdrawal BOC had prepared the ground with a £40m rights issue, which can now be seen as a move to beef up its equity as a prelude to taking on board the necessary borrowings to finance the purchase of an enlarged stake.

Admittedly BOC's spending has been rising and in the year just ended will probably have topped £70m compared to £46.5m the year before. But profits should have been around £83m so internal cash flow should broadly cover new investment, and the balance sheet at the end of June was, in any case, sound enough with shareholders' funds of £278m against net debt of £174m. In addition BOC has £4m of deferred tax, most of which will presumably be transferred in due course to reserves.

Much depends, of course, on how much more of Airco BOC wants to buy. It will clearly want control so that it can consolidate Airco fully. But BOC has been happy to leave big minorities outstanding elsewhere in the world (Australia and South Africa, for example), and there is a powerful case for doing the same in Airco's case, not least being that it will help with local financing. If the aim was to take the stake up from 34 per cent to, say, 55-60 per cent it might cost between \$70m and \$100m, presumably financed through direct dollar borrowing like the original stake, which could be comfortably accommodated within the balance sheet.

There can be little argument over the logic of BOC's move. Until it bought the initial stake in Airco in early 1974 its worldwide coverage had been almost complete except for the United States. Taking on the big three, Union Carbide, Air Products and Airco would have been suicide, so it has made good sense to move directly into Airco as a way into the world's biggest single market.

All this will not become a permanent pattern, however, so long as the monetary system remains out of equilibrium.

Cope Allman

A conglomerate invests £30m

For a group that has supported spending on fixed assets of £24.3m over the last three years on a market capitalization of only £23m, Cope Allman would not have looked out of place in the rights issue queue, particularly as it could have made out, as it does in the latest annual report, a cast-iron case for investing in growth.

That it hasn't probably owes more to the evaporation of institutional interest after the profits setback in 1975 after a fine record of unbroken growth and the now unimpeachable conglomerate image than the inherent strengths of the balance sheet.

Cope Allman is continuing to invest heavily for the 1980's, intending to spend another £30m over the next three years which provided nothing goes amiss—and there must remain doubts over its vulnerability to the level of consumer spending—should move profits on to a higher plane.

With cash flow improving to £9.4m last year that should be comfortably within the group's scope. With gearing dropping a further 3 points to 33 per cent last year, before a potential £9.3m clawback from deferred tax, it is arguable that the debt structure is too conservative for a fast growing concern, especially when borrowings are no higher than a decade ago despite the more than trebled turnover.

For all the apparent strength, however, one of the factors influencing its financial structure must be that it is a very cash-hungry group. Net working capital rose by 17 per cent to £25.7m, almost a third slower than the rise in turnover, but that still represents two-fifths of capital employed. And though by no means the worst sufferer under inflation accounting, the Hyde guidelines would still cut pre-tax profits by almost a half to £5.2m.



● The share price of Consolidated Gold Fields, whose chairman is Lord Eroll of Hale (above), has fallen by just under a third in the past month and by 19 per cent since the announcement on November 2 of a rights issue, which closes on Friday. Underwriters cannot be viewing their prospects with much equanimity, since the shares at 160p now are within 5p of the issue price.

This £40m issue is the fourth by Consolidated Gold in 10 years, and it has come at a bad time as the gold price is showing just how volatile and unpredictable it can be and the political cloud over any South African-oriented stock is as large as ever. That said, Consolidated Gold wants the new money to help diversification away from South Africa and gold, although it has a sizable stake ahead of it as in excess of 60 per cent of the group's net income came from South African gold mining last year.

And it is also worth bearing in mind that there are many existing shareholders who bought solely because Consolidated Gold is one of the best ways into gold without having to worry about the investment currency premium.

Especially the shares yield 8.52 per cent and sell at around 5.5 times prospective earnings. They are unlikely to perform well unless the gold price rises strongly. On the other hand the risk at this sort of level seems small—an argument for buying the shares once the rights is out of the way.

Pressures such as those I described yesterday are causing enormous structural difficulties for the London stock market.

Single capacity, which is unique to London, means that the stock-jobber acts as a principal dealer for his own account with the stockbroker acting as his client's agent. The system was designed for high investor participation with the jobbers seeking to match supply with demand and providing a temporary price cushion when supply exceeded demand or vice versa.

Ideally, half those participants should be making the opposite investment decision to that of the other half. But in situations, where the account for such a large part of equity investment, are renowned for acting in unison.

This is not surprising: an institutional investor would have to have an excellent reason for flying in the face of conventional investment opinion. But jobbers cannot operate properly in this kind of one-way market.

During the past decade there has been a big increase in the disclosure of business news and the quality of the analytical and research staffs of the institutions and their advisers, the stockbrokers. It is, therefore, not surprising that a growing number of institutional investment managers come at the same time to the same opinion as to investment merit and worth of a particular share.

Threatening

The consequent one-wayness of markets has become a threat to the rationale of the jobbing system. The counter view, for which the small investor could so often be relied on, is that more often than not absent from the market.

The best market of 1974 taught the investor how easy it is to become stranded in the wake of a major change in an investment trend and, for the jobber trying to make a market in a stock, the risk becomes huge blocks of institutional stock or money away the market.

In order to avoid being forced to take unmanageable positions, a jobber will widen his price margin—the difference between the price at which he is prepared to buy and sell stock—and that in turn leads to volatile price movements as jobbers try to defend their positions.

The combination of a one-way institutional market and

Taking stock of the jobbers

The second in a series of articles examining pressures for change in the securities markets. Tomorrow Frank Vogl discusses the experience of the United States

This defence mechanism operated by the jobbers means that in a violent price movement an effective market in ordinary shares will temporarily dry up, since because it is divided among fewer participants. The number of jobbing firms has fallen from about 280 to 20 in the past 40 years and, stimulated by rising costs and falling incomes, there have been plenty of forced mergers along the way.

Of the remaining firms five or four if the Monopolies Commission allows the Smith Bros-Bigwood merger—account for 90 per cent of the business passing through the market.

True, the number of actual dealers within these merged firms remains satisfactory high at about 580, but the system is nevertheless contracting.

For instance, although the annual market value of the turnover in ordinary shares has risen from £3,500m in 1965 to £14,200m in 1976, the number of bargains on which the jobber depends has remained virtually unchanged (3,400,000 in 1965 and 3,600,000 in 1976).

The failure of the number of bargains to match the increase in turnover reflects the increasing domination of the market by the savings institutions and the demise of the private investor. In 1965 the institutions owned 26 per cent of the shares in the United Kingdom listed ordinary shares; in 1975 that proportion had doubled to 52 per cent.

JOBBERS AND JOBBING FIRMS

Year	No. of jobbers	No. of firms	No. of members	No. of non-member dealers	Total no. of dealers
1960	100	545	166	88	700
1965	90	417	188	135	750
1970	31	273	219	130	622
1975	18(21)	149(231)	274(331)	103(207)	526(780)
1977	14(20)	203(218)	226(249)	99(118)	525(584)

Figures in brackets for 1975 and 1977 include both London and country units. Other figures are for London only.

A large jobbing member firm, which was a limited corporate member in 1975, reconverted itself into a partnership in 1976.

Source: The Stock Exchange.

Jobbers therefore hint darkly, and with good reason, that many deals are never shown to the market at all. Dealing outside the market has become particularly prevalent in overseas stocks, notably gold shares, where because of the 25 per cent surrender rule under overseas investment currency regulations London's pivotal position has been decimated in the space of two years.

Only Smith Bros now deals in South African gold shares. Political uncertainties have something to do with this, but the surrender rule has contributed greatly to the virtual loss of this market to New York.

American market makers now "show" their gold books in London until lunch time, then transfer them back to New York as Wall Street opens and, if necessary, to other financial centres.

Naturally, London dealers, including arbitrageurs, acting for clients or on their own behalf in South African stocks, will as a matter of course seek a price outside the market.

With huge international volume American brokers are more often than not price competitors. One London broker recorded recently that in one day only 18 of his 40 gold stock deals went through the London market.

Turnover

Large jobbers naturally say that capital is not a problem. Indeed, they more so than brokers have taken advantage of the limited relaxation in Stock Exchange rules which allowed outside capital in. Moreover, the Stock Exchange's delayed settlement system, stock borrowing and, more importantly, base-broking can overcome day-to-day financing deficiencies.

But that does not mean that jobbers have sufficient capital. The medium-sized jobbing firms (bearing in mind that in conventional terms no jobbing firm is very large) may have a £3m capital base and be carrying £100m worth of stock on its books at any one time. The risk if the market moves unexpectedly on an institutional whim is real enough.

On the second point the jobbers would argue that it is not the contraction in the number of jobbing firms that has deepened the depth of the market. They say that the deterioration in the market liquidity is due to the domination of the institutional investor with his one-way market activities and the demise of the private investor, who, because of his varying and often conflicting investment needs, help to create a real two-way market.

Also there is force behind the argument for a strong central stock market. Business done outside the market, which many believe to be increasing, leads to a fragmented—and therefore less efficient—market with reduced liquidity.

Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

'Monetary forces'

An aid to investment?

Do you pride yourself on having a good "market sense"? If you do, beware. That at least is the advice of brokers W. Greenwell, made on the assumption that, whether realise it or not, your "nose" generally works by making an assessment of "natural monetary forces". In other words, when the supply of money exceeds demand, you know that the market wants to go up, and vice versa.

The trouble with this, the brokers argue in a look at investment management technique (in their November Monetary Bulletin), is that natural monetary forces may no longer provide the best scent once a central bank starts attempting short-term control of the money supply. The same consideration, they add, probably applies to those who rely heavily on forecasting corporate profits to arrive at their investment strategy.

Why should this be so? Quite simply, Greenwell suggests, because central bank intervention to correct excessive monetary deviations produces "induced monetary forces". By that the brokers mean that the authorities now attempt to influence the monetary trend some time before it has moved to the extreme point in its natural cycle.

The result of this is that monetary forces may well come into conflict with other expectations "rather earlier in a market than has been in the case in the past—though one could, of course, argue here that in intervening in the natural monetary cycle the authorities are also affecting these other expectations by tending to smooth the underlying business cycle itself.

The conclusion Greenwell draws from this is that substantial market movements may become less common but that medium sized movements, particularly if the setting of monetary targets leads to greater interest rate volatility, will become more frequent.

Middle East: harbours to match the new riches

Hilaire Gomer

of the equipment required for container handling, port authorities have tended to leave the berth management to overseas shipping companies. Thus, Sharjah's twin-berth terminal, which opened in August, 1976, is run by the United Kingdom-based Mediterranean Lines and the United States Seafair Lines.

Similarly, Jebel Ali's new container terminal, which opened in November, is handled by the Furness Withy subsidiary Manchester Lines and the Saudi-owned Aljazeera Group.

The Emirates of Dubai, Bahrain and Sharjah already benefit from transshipment trade and they intend to exploit this further. Thus, with big container ships in mind, Sharjah is building five deep-water berths at the fishing village of Khor Fakkan on the Gulf of Oman.

1980's this will rival Muscat's Mina Qaboos as a transshipment centre and will be able to receive the largest container ships afloat.

Ras al Khaimah is also keen to get in on container traffic and has commissioned a five-berth artificial harbour at Mina Saqr, which will include two container-handling berths. In Iran, Bandar Abbas is to have

four container berths as part of its development.

Another important aspect of Middle East port development is the industrial ports which are under way. These will come on stream in the 1980's and are designed to cope with bulk imports and the exports of domestic industries, such as refining, petrochemicals, steel and fertilisers.

Hyundai, of South Korea, has been contracted to build four bulk shipment berths and an oil tanker terminal at Jubail's new industrial complex, which will be the Gulf's largest port. The Gulf's Red Sea counterpart, Jubail, with seven bulk berths, ready next year, and a 700,000-ton capacity cement-handling terminal, being built by the Swedish-owned Cementa AB.

Another big industrial centre is planned for Abu Dhabi's Jebel Dhanna, where there is a scheme for 20 bulk berths.

British contractors have been beaten to it in port construction by their South Korean, Dutch, Greek, Italian and West German rivals.

However, Taylor, Woodrow, Richard Costain and Wimpey are all represented in various projects and United Kingdom consulting engineers are sweeping the field. Halcrow, Middle East has Yabu, Jeddah and Jebel Ali, plus the Dubai, Sharjah and Khor Fakkan projects, while Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners, Sir Bruce White, Wolff Barry and Partners, Coode and Partners and Rendel Palmer and Tritton are also doing well.

The author is associate editor of Seatrade.

SAFEGUARD INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Extracts from Mr. John Keeling's Review

The year has seen a great change in the financial scene. When it began the FT Actuaries All-Share Index stood at 135.0 with Minimum Lending Rate at 13 per cent, rising within a week to 15.5 per cent, and at its close the Index was 224.45 and Minimum Lending Rate at 6 per cent.

Our performance from a capital point of view has not quite kept pace with that Index due entirely to the fact that the Directors' valuation of our unlisted portfolio has not, in a period of a rising stock market, risen in value to the same extent. The theoretical break-up value of the company after deducting the Debenture Stock at par is £10,370,758, equivalent to 93.7p per share compared with 60.6p last year. The contingent liability to Capital Gains Tax of £734,000 would, if taken into account, reduce the break-up value to 87p.

On income account, although dividend limitation is still in force, gross revenue has increased from £629,528 to £712,568. The net revenue after all expenses, including taxation, has risen from £350,129 to £415,963.

An interim dividend of 1p per share was paid in June. Your Directors now recommend a final dividend of 2.6p per share (1976: 2.1p) making a total dividend for the year of 3.6p per share (1976: 3.1p). The gross equivalent including associated tax credit is 5.454p per share (1976: 4.769p).

Unlisted Investments

There have been few changes in our unlisted portfolio during the year. This has been in no way due to Safeguard's unwillingness to invest but to the reluctance in recent years of small businessmen to invest new capital.

Much also has been heard in the past year or so of proprietors of businesses who are loath to "go public" and seek a Stock Exchange listing. My concern is to remind shareholders, and the general public, that if a small businessman, or any proprietor of a business, is seeking additional capital, Safeguard has many years' experience of investing in unlisted companies.

Future Prospects

Our policy remains unchanged: to invest in companies with long-term growth prospects and showing reasonable current yields. Our investments are almost wholly in the U.K. and our portfolio's prospects are therefore to a very large extent bound up with the U.K. economic prospects.

At the moment it is difficult to see any great change taking place. The financial scene is brighter than it has been but industrial activity remains very flat. To get industry expanding and production rising it is essential that direct taxation should be reduced for all sections of the community.

A copy of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, at 87 Eaton Place, London SW1X 8DX.

Business Diary: Long's shot • Ghana's ginger group

Brian Long, 45, whose appointment as deputy managing director of Honeywell Information Systems, Brentford, was announced yesterday, is expected to drop the "deputy" from his title some time next year, when Russ Henderson, the present managing director, returns to the United States.

When this happens, Long will become the first non-American to run the Minneapolis company's computer operations in the United Kingdom (though Ralph Price has been Honeywell's chairman, embracing both computers and computers, since 1971).

Born and educated in Bradford, Long joined the local area's board from school, qualified as a chartered secretary, and, convinced that data-processing was the coming thing,

joined British Tabulators as a trainee in 1955. "British Tab used to call their salesmen investigators," he recalled yesterday. "I was a systems man."

He moved over from systems into management, British Tab was absorbed in 1969 into ICL (which has since become ICL), and in 1965 Long was headhunted into Honeywell—which at that time had been in the computer business in Britain for only a couple of years.

After working his way up the marketing route, Long now takes over responsibility for all the company's computer hardware business.

Sir Richard Marsh, no stranger to the vicissitudes of political life, may find his impending December appointment as chairman of Allied Investments somewhat short-lived. Indeed, at yesterday's AGM he was overheard to remark that he might be in the chair for only "a couple of days".

The problem is that allied with the subject of a takeover bid from its three principal shareholders, which have 45 per cent of the equity—Commercial Union Assurance, Orion Bank and London Trust—and from the National Enterprise Board.

Sir Richard's prospects would not be unusual at Allied, however. As the outgoing chairman, William Spencer, remarked yesterday, three

years is a long time to be on the board of this company. Not one question was asked, and no information was gratuitously offered, about a possible bid, although this had seemed likely since Friday evening. However, one loan stock shareholder, Gerald Deakin, has

secured from the company's financial advisers, Kleinwort Benson, a promise to consider extending the loan stock conversion date from Sunday, given all the uncertainty surrounding the company.

The only news to be gleaned came after the meeting, when

Sherry Aiyettey's line is mixing drinks, but she is no barmaid. She is the chief technologist of the distillery division of the Ghana Industrial and Holding Corporation.

Miss Aiyettey (right) returns home today after six weeks in London where she has been learning how they make Stone's Ginger Wine at the Matthew Clark group's Finsbury Distillery in the City.

The distillers have signed a deal with the Ghanaian government under which Stone's brandy-made mostly from dried Cyprus grapes—will be exported to Accra. There, under Miss Aiyettey's supervision, it will be gingered up with local sugar and spice.

If all goes well, the Ghanaian distillery will be the finished article to other West African states. They could even make the lot under licence one day as they are already experimenting with Indian and South American grapes to see if they can produce wines.

How the wine will be drunk in Ghana, she says, remains to be seen. Here, it is usually drunk neat or in Scotch. In

years is a long time to be on the board of this company.

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Ghana it may be drunk in beer as it is in the States. Incidentally, Sherry Aiyettey's corporation is also experimenting with a local sherry-type drink, as well as with a chic-pagne-type made from palm juice. It is also trying to produce a liqueur made from the national crop, cocoa, but as a number of these already exist, it will be hard to be competitive.

Sir Richard let slip that the company was awaiting an announcement from Riyadh that it had won a new hospital contract.

Manuel de Prado, chairman and executive president of the Spanish national airline Iberia, has been asked to become the president of the International Air Transport Association for the second year running.

This is unusual, as the top men of the 109 airlines in the association generally pass around this chore each year.

De Prado is reckoned to have done a good job for IATA at a time when it needs all the friends that it can get, and his fellow airline chairmen obviously hope that he will go on doing it as the going becomes even tougher during the next 12 months.

IATA's far-sightedness is under attack from all sides—so much so that the chairmen have just decided that there might be a case for allowing in some competition after all.

De Prado's rise to airline prominence is all the more remarkable when it is considered that he came into the aviation game in March last year. He joined Iberia after a career in private business, mainly in the steel, vehicle and telecommunications industries.

Born in 1931, he studied law and business administration in Madrid and Salamanca and he speaks fluent English.

For some time now I have been wondering why it is that public bodies like the Design Council and the English Tourist Board have taken to sending me two copies of each communication, each in a separate envelope and arriving on the same day.

It can be anything as simple as a bureaucratic waste of time and money. Yesterday, however, I received three copies of the same magazine from mthe EBT, each in a separate envelope. When it gets to five, I really shall have to ask Sir Mark Henig, the board's chairman, what it's all about.

Long-winded names: spurred readers' previous suggestions, W. J. Smeurwright of Westbury-on-Trym remembers serving on the Regional Advisory Sub-Committee for the Regional Council for Further Education for the South-West. Peter Churchill, of London, W.8, speaks up for Dickensians when he reminds us of Nicholas Nickleby, wherein may be found the United Metropolitan Improved Hot Muffin and Crumpet Baking and Puncrual Delivery Company Limited.



Honeywell's Brian Long.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Kiwi polishes up its 1977 results

Kiwi International, the Australian polish group has announced an operating profit of \$A2.9m (about £1.8m) on sales of \$A56.52m for the year ended August 31. This compares with \$A1.8m on sales of \$A45m for the year before.

The group said the improving sales and profit trend during 1976 continued in the latest year an again produced record profits.

Trading conditions in Australia, it says, have continued to be difficult but all operations contributed to the good result except for the United Kingdom, where for a period, currency and exchange fluctuations affected adversely the cost of inter-company stock movements.

Woolworth hopes

Mr Edward Gibbons, chairman of F. W. Woolworth says the store chain "expects a good fourth quarter". The group reported third quarter earnings to October 31 of 40 cents a share against 62 cents a year ago.

For the nine months the company had a net income of \$22.7m (about £12.6m) compared with \$48.7m a year earlier. The earnings include the company's 52.7 per cent equity in the earnings of F. W. Woolworth of Great Britain.

British Woolworth has reported a third quarter loss equivalent to \$4.3m. Its nine-month profit fell to the equivalent of \$4.2m from \$10.2m in the year before.

Woolworth said this was the result of foreign exchange translations.

Woolworth said its share in results of the British unit of \$2.2m against a profit of \$3.5m a year ago.

Olivetti transfer

Ing C. Olivetti and C.S.P.A. the Ives-based electronic and office equipment group and SCM Corporation announce an agreement by which the Olivetti group will sell to an SCM subsidiary for an undisclosed amount of cash, the Olivetti factory in Glasgow. SCM will continue operation of the Glasgow plant where the typewriters, the Lexikon 82 and 83 are manufactured.

Thomas Locker up 25pc with better to come

The second half year at Thomas Locker, the screening and filtration engineer, should be better than the first. If so pre-tax profits for the year should be a record at about £2.2m compared with last year's £2.02m. Pre-tax profits in the six months to September 30, rose by 25 per cent to £1.1m and orders are reasonable.

Morgan and Narodny open Moscow office

Morgan Grenfell, Moscow Narodny Bank, and Bank of Scotland have opened a joint representative office in Moscow. The office will be managed by Mr. Oleg Lapushkin who has been Narodny's representative in Moscow for some time. The joint venture is designed to bring together Morgan Narodny's experience in the financing of Anglo-Soviet trade, and the experience of Morgan and Bank of Scotland in the arrangement and provision of ECGD-backed loans and major project finance.

Miners drink their way to a pension

Miners in the Midlands have a new incentive to drink their favourite beer in the future. From now on every time they down a pint of Mansfield bitter, they will be securing their pensions.

Clark's US shoe deal

C. & J. Clark, a privately owned group which includes the Ravel Shoe chain and the Hanover Shoe Inc. have announced that they have reached agreement for Clark to buy all of Hanover's assets for about \$36m.

Hanover Shoe is an American company engaged in the making and retailing of shoes. Hanover's turnover has increased from \$21m in 1967 to \$60m in 1976. In 1976 pre-tax profits were \$6.1m and net worth \$28.4m. In the first nine months of 1977 pre-tax profits were \$2.4m compared with \$3.3m in 1976.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of 1977.

C. & J. Clark have wished to increase their base in the United States of America for some time and believe that the proposed buy will fulfil that policy. The C. & J. Clark subsidiary expects to employ members of Hanover's present management and the about 2,500 other employees of Hanover and its wholly owned subsidiary Sheppard & Myers.

International

had the possibility of declaring a scrip issue constantly under review.

Danish Phone

The 25m Swiss franc (about £6m) 43 per cent 15-year loan being floated in Zurich here by the Municipal Telephone Company of Funen, Denmark, has been priced at 99 per cent the loan prospectus states.

Brambles debenture

Brambles Industries of Australia, says its \$A10m (about £6.25m) debenture stock issue received applications exceeding \$A15m and it has accepted oversubscriptions of \$A5m as proposed in mid-October. Issues on offer were: 11 per cent for three years, 11.25 per cent six years, 11.5 per cent 10 years and 11.75 per cent 15 years, all at par.

ACEC optimistic

Ateliers de Constructions Electriques de Charleroi SA of Belgium say its first half 1977 loss increased to

74.3m francs (about £1m) from a loss of 32.4m francs in the same 1976 period.

Second-half results will again be better than the first and the company expects to make a profit for the full year, although lower than the 129.8m franc profit of the full 1976.

The Queen's Guard

The State Government Insurance Office of Queensland has decided to invest \$A28m (about £17.5m) in a special issue of Amoco Australia shares, giving it 20 per cent of the unlisted company's issued share capital. Amoco managing director, Mr C. F. Ullmann said. He said also that profit this year is expected to exceed the 7.5m earned in 1976.

Sime Darby Hlids

Sime Darby Holdings is still weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of transferring its domicile to Malaysia from the United Kingdom, the chairman, Mr. Siew Siew told the annual meeting. Answering questions he said that the board

The National Coal Board's Pension Funds have bought a 6 per cent interest in Mansfield Breweries, an independent based at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. The interest is worth about £500,000.

Shorts set up US outfit

Short Brothers, the world's first manufacturer of production aircraft, based in Belfast, reports the incorporation of Short Brothers (USA) Inc., with headquarters in Newport Beach, California. The new subsidiary has been formed to consolidate Shorts' presence, marketing and support services for its 330 Commuter airliner in the Continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and Canada.

Recovery under way at Peters

Mr Joseph Gould, chairman at Peters Stores says in his annual statement that towards the end of June there was a marked upturn in sales which has continued. This should mean a substantial increase in profits, certainly for the half year, and if the trend continues, results for full year as well.

This is good news as pre-tax profits were £149,000, for the year to June 25, against £32,000 for 1976, a record £463,000 for 1975. Mr Gould says that if the present rise in sales continues, he is sure that the group will recover its lost ground.

Briefly

ATV ISSUE
Rights issue was taken up on 94 per cent of shares offered.

RANK ORG

Global Communications has made a cash and income offer to Rank Organisation for its Rank Theatres (London) company which runs 132 theatres there.

CENT AND SHEERWOOD

Photopia International is unconditional and remains open. Acceptances total 87.91 per cent.

R GREEN PROPERTIES

Chairman, says that he is encouraged by the figures for first 4 months of current year, and believes that they are now progressive towards a more profitable year.

BID FOR FERRO METAL

Greg Gray International Corporation making agreed bid for Ferro metal and Concrete shares not already owned at Ferro metal share. Listing of Ferro has been restored.

Stepping Stones—Non-Secretarial—Secretarial—Temporary & Part Time Vacancies—

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£3,500 p.a. Excellent salary. Please phone: 01-462 1480

PERSONNEL/ADMIN. - W.C.1. A

young P.A. with some experience. Excellent salary. Please phone: 01-462 1480

ENGLISH MOTHER TONGUE IN

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ADMIN. ASSISTANT, City, aged

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SECRETARIAL

AMERICAN MEDICAL UK

PA SECRETARY TO PERSONNEL OFFICER

Required for this worldwide group in W.I. Secretarial skills must be first class. Good typing and shorthand. Able to get on well with other staff. Salary £3,500 p.a. plus L.V.s and pension. Tel. 01-462 1480

Environmental Consultancy, W.I.

AUDIO SECRETARY

We need two super secretaries to make up a team for young company environmental and consultancy in W.I. Good typing and shorthand. Salary £3,500 p.a. plus L.V.s and pension. Tel. 01-462 1480

DIRECTORATE OF DEVELOPMENT

SECRETARY TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

APPC-2554 to £3,500 p.a. plus L.V.s and pension. Tel. 01-462 1480

ST THOMAS' HEALTH DISTRICT

PERSONAL SECRETARY

Salary scale £1,800-£3,500 p.a. plus L.V.s and pension. Tel. 01-462 1480

AUDIO SECRETARY

Working in our Chief Executive's office, this responsible position requires a mature, efficient, and accurate typist with a minimum of 10 years experience, good typing and shorthand skills, and the ability to work on her own initiative. Salary £3,500 per annum. For discussion and appointment telephone: 01-462 1480

COME OUT OF THE COLD...

And join a team of informants who are working on a major project. Excellent salary. Please phone: 01-462 1480

BUSY JOB HELPING WITH PROFESSIONAL STAFF MATTERS

TO £3,500

A ROLE IN RECRUITMENT WITH PROMOTION PROSPECTS

Interesting job with plenty of training. Ideal for a young woman with a minimum of 10 years experience, good typing and shorthand skills, and the ability to work on her own initiative. Salary £3,500 per annum. For discussion and appointment telephone: 01-462 1480

RIGHT HAND TO YOUNG MANAGING DIRECTOR

£3,500 p.a. Excellent salary. Please phone: 01-462 1480

FULHAM, S.W.10

Secretary with good typing and shorthand skills. Excellent salary. Please phone: 01-462 1480

PERSONNEL £3,700

Large company requiring first class secretary. Excellent salary. Please phone: 01-462 1480

KENSINGTON Secretary (Shorthand Typist) for Senior Partner

Excellent salary. Please phone: 01-462 1480

P.A./SEC. 5/7 to assist children's

officer. Excellent salary. Please phone: 01-462 1480

PRIVATE SCHOOL, Chelsea

Excellent salary. Please phone: 01-462 1480

PUBLISHER'S SECRETARY with

25/years exp. Excellent salary. Please phone: 01-462 1480

NONE - THAN SECRETARIAL

Excellent salary. Please phone: 01-462 1480

A Director of some 20

companies needs an experienced secretary. Excellent salary

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

To place an advertisement in any of these categories, tel.

PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

01-837 3311

APPOINTMENTS

01-278 9161

PROPERTY ESTATE AGENTS

01-278 9231

PERSONAL TRADE

01-278 9351

MANCHESTER OFFICE

061-834 1234

Queries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, tel.:

Classified Queries Dept.

01-837 1234, Extn. 7180

Animals and Birds

01-278 9351

Appointments

01-278 9161

Business and Finance

01-278 9231

Classified

01-837 1234

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Finance

01-278 9231

General

01-278 9351

Health

01-278 9231

Home

01-278 9161

Law

01-278 9231

Legal

01-278 9351

Medical

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Personal

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Real Estate

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Religion

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Travel

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Utilities

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Weather

01-278 9161

Welfare

01-278 9231

Work

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World

01-278 9231

Women

01-278 9161

Yacht

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Yoga

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BIRTHS

RAISON—On November 18th, to Caroline (nee Harvey), and Nick (nee Raison), a daughter, Victoria Louise. Mr. Raison is a partner in Raison & Co., 100, Pall Mall, London. Mrs. Raison is a partner in Raison & Co., 100, Pall Mall, London.

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY—Miss Zales. Mr. Zales, 100, Pall Mall, London.

MARRIAGES

STEVEN—On November 18th, to Steven (nee Stevens), and Mrs. A. E. Stevens, of 100, Pall Mall, London.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

CAME—On November 18th, to Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Came, of 100, Pall Mall, London.

DEATHS

BOURNE—On November 17th, to Mr. and Mrs. B. Bourne, of 100, Pall Mall, London.

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LOMAS—On November 18th, to Mr. and Mrs. L. Lomas, of 100, Pall Mall, London.

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